

4th
NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
Proceedings

• NOVEMBER 11-14, 1998 •

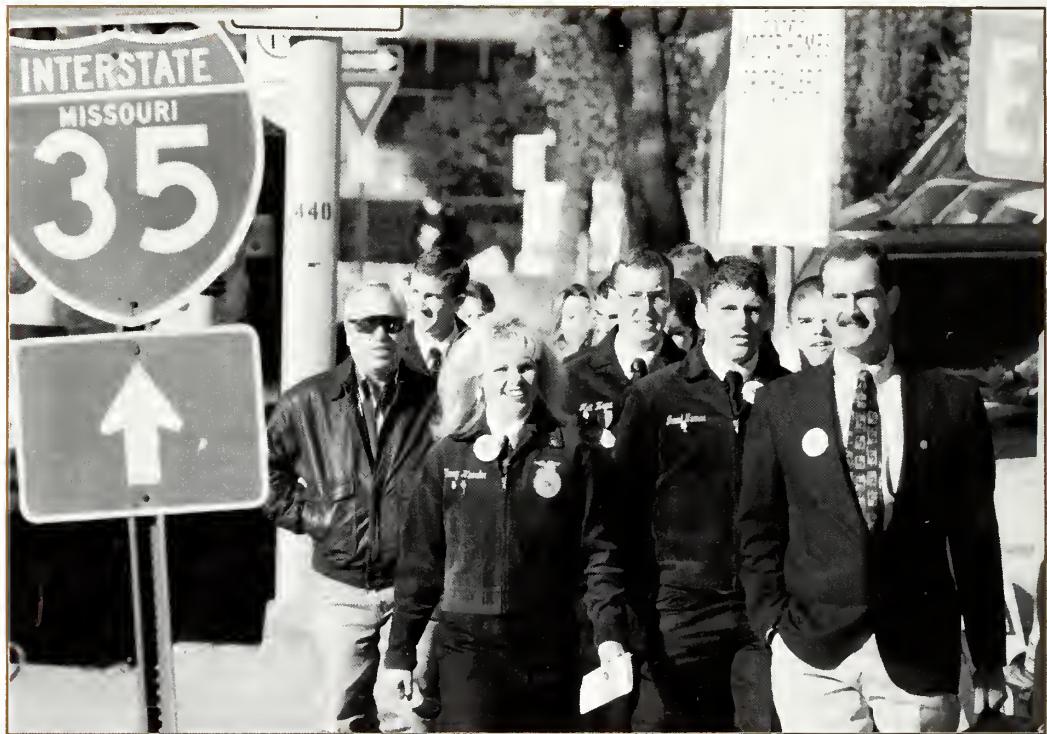


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FFA-MAKING THE CONNECTION

Life is like a train. As passengers, we use trains for transportation. If we're to reach our destinations, we eventually have to get off. We might stay awhile at our destination, but often we hop on another train going to a new place. It's only when we make the connection that we're really on the right track.



Street signs helped FFA members and advisors make their connections in Kansas City. Many of the 49,240 guests took advantage of the beautiful weather during FFA's 71st national convention and took in the sights and sounds of the heartland.



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Friendship is an important part of the FFA experience. Young leaders from across the U.S. and its territories exchanged ideas throughout the convention; a showcase of premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

As young adults, FFA members make decisions each day that can impact the rest of their lives. Their involvement in the FFA is helping them shape their futures for a brighter tomorrow. The National FFA Convention is a sea of opportunity, encouraging curious minds to dive into the pool of knowledge and bask in the rays of encouragement from advisors, presenters and career professionals. The blue corduroy jackets, worn by all members, is the first business suit many will slip over their shoulders to take a step in developing themselves as current leaders in their local chapters and communities. As the convention hall begins to overflow with FFA members, a transformation occurs. Students from all walks of life unite under the common colors of blue and gold to celebrate their pride as members and share with the world their commitment to achieving dreams.

The National FFA Convention is a sea of opportunity, encouraging curious minds to dive into the pool of knowledge and bask in the rays of encouragement from advisors, presenters and career professionals.



By Wednesday, "planes, trains, and automobiles" emptied blue and gold cargo onto the streets of Kansas City in record numbers. A glimmer of excitement shone in the eyes of members as they embarked on a convention welcoming them with open arms ready to help guide them on their path to success. Some came in hopes of meeting people stretching from towns and cities throughout the nation. A new friend could be found anywhere: squeezed into an already-full elevator, ogling at new trucks at the career show, standing in line at the shopping mall or even in the next seat.

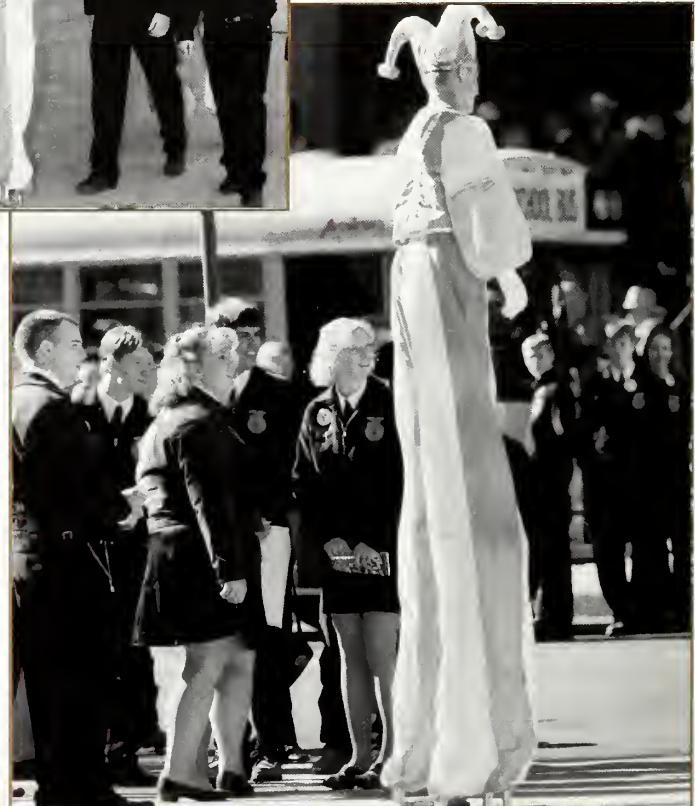
FFA chapters were singled out as Models of Innovation for reaching out to their communities and encouraging students to get involved and make a difference.

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ready to help guide them on their
path to success.

Through workshops and other leadership training techniques at the convention, students discovered the impact they can make as individuals in their home and communities. Believing in their talents and learning how to set positive examples gave them the strength to look into the future with hope and direction for accomplishing their goals. Many members left Kansas City with a new story to tell. Whether sharing life experiences with peers at social gatherings or talking with an industry professional at the FFA National Agricultural Career Show, students gained a larger perspective of the country and the world.



The Wolf brothers, Travis (waving) and Tony, of the Spencer, Wis., FFA tower head and shoulders and then some above the rest. They learned stiltwalking from their father, who held the Guinness world record for the highest stilts until Travis, a stiltwalker since he was 11 months old, broke it at a height of 40 feet 10 inches. The brothers developed a stilt dancing routine for the National FFA Talent program. The secret to stilts? Says Tony, "Lots of practice."



The career show was a wonderful opportunity for students to stretch their wings and fly into new skies of technology and personal career growth. Members could connect with their friends at home by sending electronic postcards from the convention. Others discussed the future of agriculture with companies and universities spanning the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Individual students were honored for achievements in volunteerism and recognized for their service in monitoring programs. This outreach was reciprocated, as sponsors dug deep into their pockets to support FFA programs. Alumni members raised scholarship funds through their annual auction.



For some FFA members embarking on a new career opportunity paves the way for future endeavours in their industry of choice. Here a student is exploring her interests in the floriculture industry through the Career Development Events.



If you ever find yourself surrounded by FFA members, you're sure to receive a heartfelt HELLO! These members open their arms and welcome you to share in their excitement as they made connections with new friends during convention week.

Members were inspired to evaluate current relationships they hold close to their hearts. Keynote speaker Les Brown encouraged members to seek out "OQP - Only Quality People." In recounting her experiences as a Holocaust survivor, Gerda Klein reminded us of the humanity that binds us together and the freedom we all share. When national officers and others offered expressions of thanks to their parents and advisors, audience members were moved to reflect on the influence of teachers and family in their own lives.



Friday's parade led down 12th Street to the site of the Old Baltimore Hotel, where the first national convention was held. At the parade's culminaton, national FFA officers and Ray Hagen, former Missouri state supervisor for agricultural education, presented Kansas City with the Blue and Gold Award, commemorating 71 years of history and friendship.

"*E*ducation is key in your field," said Robin Roberts, ESPN sportscaster, to the convention hall bursting at the seams with enthusiastic members and guests. FFA members know the importance of pursuing wisdom through experience, and those competing for top honors in proficiency awards, career development events and other programs were using their educational endeavors to lay the groundwork for career success.

Students embraced new friends and waved a sign of thanks to those who made the convention possible.



An FFA member participating in the Forestry and Natural Resources Career Development Event takes careful note of a stand of trees. Such events are designed to test a member's technical knowledge and analytical skills.



FFA members bid a fond farewell to Kansas City after 71 years. A record number of members and guests arrived to celebrate the convention, and many more are expected in Louisville, Ky., next year to kick off that city's first national FFA convention.

*Every member, advisor,
speaker, staff person and
guest were pieces of a puzzle
illustrating the possibility of
dreaming a dream and
watching it come to life.*

*O*n Saturday, the cheering faded away as FFA members bid a fond farewell to Kansas City. Each member packed a memory for the convention to cherish. Students embraced new friends and waved a sign of thanks to those who made the convention possible. Every member, advisor, speaker, staff person and guest were pieces of a puzzle illustrating the possibility of dreaming a dream and watching it come to life. With a newfound understanding of themselves and the world around them, FFA members made a connection: a connection to their past, a connection to the present and a connection to their future.

STARS OVER AMERICA

Stars Over America Film is sponsored by the Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture and the General Fund of the National FFA Foundation. Cash awards for the national finalists and winners are sponsored by the executive sponsors of the National FFA Foundation.

The eight Stars Over America finalists waited anxiously as they were introduced on stage Thursday night. In moments, they would know the winners of FFA's most prestigious award. Each had already amassed years of valuable work experience, and had truly become a young star in his or her profession. The finalists had gone through long interviews and inspections of their record books, as well as summer filming visits to their businesses and farming operations.

As the finalists were introduced, each received \$1,000 and a plaque, and the national winners received an additional \$1,000. The parents of each finalist were presented with the Honorary American FFA Degree to recognize their contributions to their children's success.



The Stars Over America announcement creates excitement for more than just the winners!



American Star Farmer Charles Pearce and American Star in Agribusiness Andrew Tygett congratulate each other on earning FFA's highest award.

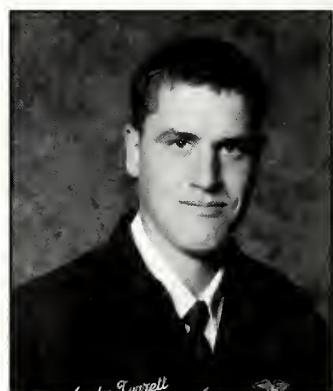


Charles Pearce, 21

Walworth, Wis.

Big Foot FFA Chapter

Pearce's first farm responsibilities started 10 years ago, when his dad put him in charge of feeding the dairy calves. Today, he helps manage all facets of the family's 1,888-acre grain and 184-head dairy operation. Pearce oversees the work of six part-time employees and manages the farm's combined financial assets and investments.



Andrew Tygett, 20

Atalissa, Iowa

Wilton FFA Chapter

Tygett's interest in floriculture began as a 12-year-old when he began caring for flower beds at his father's business. He started raising gladiolus for show and sale, and expanded his business to local farmers' markets and catalog mail orders. He also purchased 117 acres to start farming organically.

AMERICAN STAR IN AGRIBUSINESS FINALISTS



Troy Ambrose, 20

Amherst, Wis.

Amherst FFA Chapter

Ambrose and his brother launched T.N.T. Lawncare Service before they had drivers' licenses. Today they provide mowing, fertilizing, landscaping and other services to more than 100 customers. He recently signed a contract to maintain a nearby community's parks and baseball diamonds, and hopes to expand his business to provide total landscape design to his customers.



K.C. Gregg, 20

Spencer, S. D.

McCook Central FFA Chapter

After Gregg's family moved off of their ranch to town, he kept up his interest in beef cattle by working for another rancher. During the school year he worked 12-hour days on the weekends, and 14-hour days during the summers. His responsibilities included managing the herd health, nutrition and breeding programs.



Jere Stewart, 21

Nampa, Idaho

Kuna FFA Chapter

Stewart began his business after being approached about composting the stockpile of manure on the family's dairy operation. Though he knew he would eventually take over the family farm, he used the opportunity to start his own composting business.

AMERICAN STAR FARMER FINALISTS



Shane Becker, 21

Worthington, Minn.

Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster
FFA Chapter

Becker rented the land to raise his first crop, but has made enough profits from his operation to purchase 160 acres of his own. He pays careful attention to machinery maintenance to reduce costs and prolong the equipments' life. His long-term goal is to expand his grain operation and to begin a feeder cattle and custom hog-feeding enterprise.



Dana Boehm, 21

Taylor, Texas

Hutto FFA Chapter

Boehm is a fourth-generation farmer who has distinguished herself with production yields of over 5,000 pounds per acre maize and 140-bushel per acre corn. In addition to high yields, she made her operation even more profitable by tracking commodity markets. By staying current on market conditions, she sold her crops for a 25-percent premium.



Lance Dobbins, 22

Thomas, Okla.

Thomas-Fay-Custer FFA Chapter

Dobbins purchased his first stocker steers as a 12-year-old, an investment which has grown into 813 head of cattle and nearly 1,200 acres of grain and hay. He plans to expand his farm to 1,500 acres of land and 1,000-head of stocker cattle. He credits detailed, accurate records as the keys to his success.



NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATES

National Officer Candidates reception and dinner sponsored by
Bayer Corporation, Agriculture Division

*H*undreds of FFA members aspire to become what only six achieve each year - a national FFA officer. The 34 candidates below earned their American FFA Degrees, and were chosen by their associations as the state's best candidate for national office. During convention week, a written exam and numerous interviews with the nominating committee kept the candidates busy.

The intense week ended Saturday afternoon, when the national officer nominating committee issued its report to the convention session. The candidates and the organiza-

tion waited anxiously, as one by one, the names of the new officer teams were announced. The convention hall roared as the new leaders were introduced. You can see their pictures and short bios on page 78.

The team will spend the coming year traveling more than 100,000 miles each, visiting every state as well as Europe and Japan. We applaud each of the members listed here who were willing to step forward to serve their organization, and congratulate them on a job well done.

The talents of the 34 national officer candidates shone through during intense interviews, small group situations and written FFA exam. Only six would be selected for the 1998-99 team, but throughout the week, each showed the makings of a true leader.



ALABAMA: Shay Jones,
Billingsley

ARIZONA: Daniel Foster,
Flowing Wells

ARKANSAS: Lance Wright,
Quitman

CALIFORNIA: James Garner,
Hanford

CONNECTICUT: David
Haversat, Woodbury

FLORIDA: Robbie Cason, Lake
Butler Sr.

IDAHO: Laban Molsee, Deary

ILLINOIS: Katie Dallam,
Franklin Center

INDIANA: Abby Dougherty,

Whiteland

IOWA: Lisa Ahrens, Osage
KANSAS: Andy Armbruster,
South Barber

KENTUCKY: Matthew London,
Barren County

MAINE: Erin DeLong, Presque
Isle

MICHIGAN: Brian Preston,
Branch Area Career Center

MINNESOTA: Laura Klein,
Kimball

MISSISSIPPI: Jason Morris, South
Panola

MISSOURI: Alex Stemme,
Hermann

MONTANA: John Peterson,
Shields Valley

NEBRASKA: Matt Rasmussen,
Mead

NEW JERSEY: Bernard Kelly,
Phillipsburg

NEW MEXICO: Eva Madrid,
Hatch

NEW YORK: Andrew Sears,
Falconer

NORTH CAROLINA: Robbie
Minnich, Chase

NORTH DAKOTA: Craig
Danielson, Rolette

OHIO: Emily Buxton, River View

PENNSYLVANIA: Michael Clark,
West Perry

PUERTO RICO: Jose Santiago,
Piedra Gorda

SOUTH DAKOTA: Ryan Eichler,
Groton

TENNESSEE: Michael Davis, Polk

UTAH: Toni Staples, Richfield

VIRGINIA: Michael Kibler,
Central High School

WASHINGTON: Andrew Cockle,
Nooksack Valley High School

WISCONSIN: Jared Schaffner,
Cochrane-Fountain City

WYOMING: Ronda Pulse,

Cheyenne

AGRI-ENTREPRENEURSHIP

AWARDS

Sponsored by and in partnership with the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

Some of FFA's most ambitious members were rewarded for their efforts with an Agri-Entrepreneurship Award. Nine young business people who started their own enterprises were recognized during Friday afternoon's convention session. These young entrepreneurs are rural America's hope for the future, as talented youth create careers in their hometowns.

Dr. Marilyn Kourilsky, Vice President of the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, presented each winner with a plaque and a check for \$1,000. In addition, each advisor received a check for \$500 to further promote agri-entrepreneurship in their chapters. The Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Program is a joint activity of the National Council for Agricultural Education, the U.S. Department of Education and the National FFA Foundation.

Grant Betterman of Parkers Prairie, Minn., owns and operates Betterman Docks and Lawns, a service business for area homeowners. His business provides lawn care and landscaping services as well as dock installation services in the spring and dock removal services in the fall.

Luke Brown of West Bend, Iowa, owns and operates Brown's Weld Repair, an enterprise that offers welding services to area farmers. He repairs various farm and agribusiness equipment. Luke has set several goals for his business, which include offering quality and timely service; establishing a strong clientele base; repaying equipment loans and building his own welding shop.

Andy Hendrickson of Cambria, Wis., realized he could make more money milking before and after school than by working all day at typical teen-age jobs. He now owns and manages Andy's Milking Service, a relief milking business for area dairy farmers.

Matthew Kouba of Hillsboro, Wis., owns and operates a water analysis business that is a subsidiary of his family's business, Kouba Well Drilling, Inc. He tests the water of area residents for contaminants. Kouba works with several companies and contracts his services.

Annthie Kramer of Sutton, Neb., owns and manages Sutton Berry Basket, a u-pick strawberry operation she started in the spring of 1997. Kramer has

plans for expanding her business next summer by adding strawberry 'knick-knacks' and jams to her product offering.

Matthew McClain of Republican City, Neb., owns and operates McClain's Mutton Busters, a business that provides livestock and entertainment services to fairs and rodeos. McClain realized the potential for such a business when a large rodeo asked his family to provide sheep to be ridden by children in a mutton busting contest.

Randy Meissen of Salisbury, Mo., owns and operates Meissen Entomology. He sells insects to agriculture and science departments in area schools. Meissen's insects are embedded in transparent plastic blocks so that they are durable, convenient for instruction, and easily stored. The specimens are marketed to schools through catalogs, flyers, newsletters and a web page.

Jennifer Stover of Vista, Calif., owns and operates Jennie's Flower Garden, a small-scale floral shop she operates from her home. She began making corsages and boutonnieres for her friends, but now also makes arrangements, decorations and designs events and banquet decor. Stover markets arrangements, bouquets, wreaths, wedding packages and dried flower arrangements.

Ryan Sutton of Middletown, Ind., is a stakeholder in BRW Landscapes and Design, an incorporated company that he owns with Bart Butterfield and Rich and Melody Warner. The business began as a partnership between Sutton and Butterfield. The pair provided mowing, lawn maintenance and landscape services. They increased their capital and expertise when they added the Warner family which allowed BRW Landscapes and Design to provide additional services to their customer base.



Annthie Kramer of Sutton, Neb., explains her u-pick strawberry enterprise to reporters.



NATIONAL PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

Sponsored by FMC Corporation, Agricultural Products Group

To become a national finalist in prepared public speaking is to accomplish a dream for hundreds of FFA members. Across the country, stuffed animals turn into "pretend" audiences and parents become critiques as students practice a speech they know by heart.

Countless hours of research are required to transform young leaders into knowledgeable speakers. After advancing through their chapter, district, region, and state, four talented individuals traveled to Kansas City as they attempted to become the next National Prepared Public Speaker Winner.

Each participant developed a speech on a agriculture-related topic of their choice. After presenting their six-to-eight minute speech, each finalist entertained five minutes of questions from the judges.

Lauri Vaughn hailed as this year's winner. Her speech entitled "Who Will Speak for Agriculture?" earned her a \$300 cash award and a \$1,000 scholarship. The second, third and fourth-place speakers each received a \$1,000 scholarship and a cash prize of \$275, \$250, and \$225 respectively.

NATIONAL WINNER

Lauri Vaughn
Lubbock Cooper FFA Chapter
Lubbock, Texas

SECOND PLACE

Abbie Kammerzell
Colfax FFA Chapter
Colfax, Wash.

THIRD PLACE

Josh Tewalt
Meridian FFA Chapter
Meridian, Idaho

FOURTH PLACE

Robyn Sites
Mountain View-Gotebo FFA Chapter
Mountain View, Okla.

WHO WILL SPEAK FOR AGRICULTURE?

Lauri Vaughn, Lubbock Cooper FFA Chapter, Lubbock, Texas

They lined the streets, 30,000 strong. Yellow ribbons were everywhere: on people's shirt pockets and blouses, on flag poles and bank buildings. Full-page color ads were run in the local newspaper, depicting huge yellow ribbons. The purpose of the yellow ribbons was to show the community's support for an air base that was scheduled to be closed by the federal government.

That evening the mayor of the city met with a group of agricultural leaders. He remarked how heartwarming it was to see the citizens throw their support behind the air base. However, he noted that the contribution of agriculture

was also very important to the economy of the city and surrounding area. That was probably an understatement because this region produces 25 percent of all the cotton grown in the United States, pens 50 percent of all the cattle fed in U.S. feedlots, and grows 90 percent of all certified grain sorghum seed in the world. It has been estimated that agricultural commodities pump over \$5 billion dollars into the region's economy each year.

Then the mayor asked an uncomfortable question. "How many people do you think would have lined the streets to support the agricultural industry?" The agricultural

leaders shifted uneasily in their seats. Finally one said. "Mayor, we would be lucky to have 300." The mayor replied, "Yes, I know. I myself have often wondered, who will stand up and speak for the agricultural industry?"

Who will speak for agriculture? The general public? Not likely. In 1988, a National Academy of Sciences committee released a study on agricultural knowledge. They found that the American public, as a whole, knew very little about agriculture. They also found that much of the information presented in schools about agriculture is erroneous or condescending in tone.

I know the committee is right because I find many people today still view agriculture with this old fashioned picture in mind: (1) fields of wheat blowing golden in the wind, (2) a plow and horse along the horizon of a setting sun, (3) and a man with leathery, tough skin in his torn, rugged overalls with his hair blowing gently in the wind. While these are pleasant pictures, they are completely inaccurate. Agriculture today involves medicine, energy, ecology, industrial products and pharmacology. It doesn't depend upon a horse or a man with a plow. It is concerned with such

things as biosystematics, genetic engineering, computer technology, and supercritical fluid extraction.

Who, then will speak of agriculture to the general public? The news media? One would think so. However, there is evidence that those who inform the general public about agriculture do so in a faulty manner. In 1993, a professor at Texas Tech University conducted a study that measured the agricultural knowledge of TV reporters in Texas. He found that most of the reporters were severely lacking in overall agricultural knowledge, and these were individuals whose beat was agriculture!

Who will speak for agriculture? If you are within the sound of my voice, you know the answer. It is the reason the agricultural leaders felt so uncomfortable by the mayor's question. The responsibility lies not with your neighbor, or your friend—it lies with you. We all must accept our responsibility to speak up for this dynamic industry which is being severely hampered by a lack of knowledge on the part of many Americans.

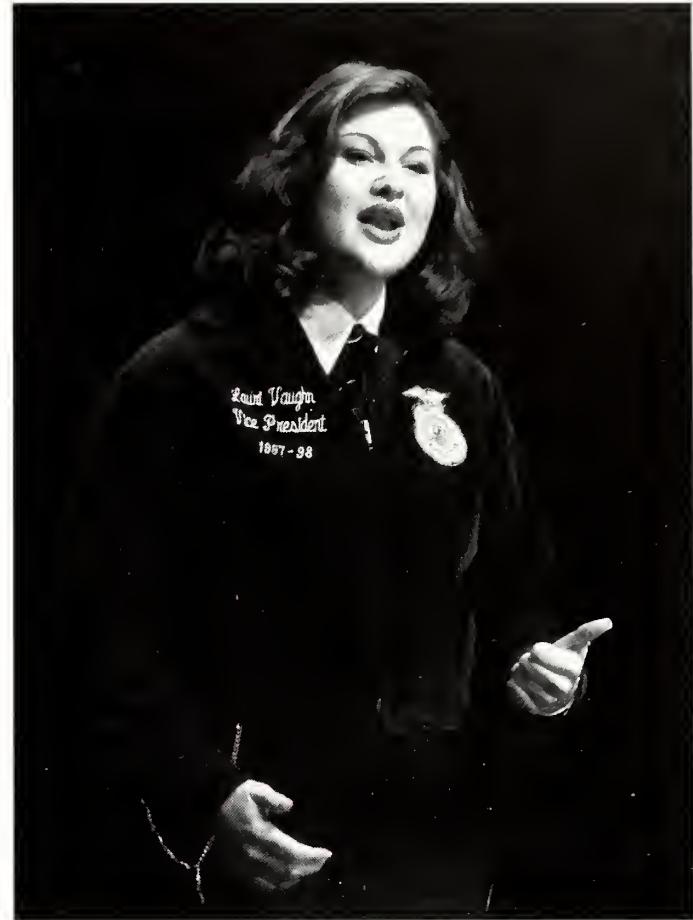
You may be asking yourself, what can we do? There are three things that I would suggest. The first is that we must secure accurate agricultural statistics. One of the major problems we

face in speaking for agriculture is that there is so much inaccurate information being presented. We must have statistics which are reliable and which include all segments of agriculture, not just the parts that are involved with production.

Secondly, we must actively seek out opportunities to speak. It is amazing how many civic and community organizations struggle to find speakers. A well-documented and presented program on agriculture may find its way onto the program of every civic organization in the community. By informing community leaders about agriculture, we will ensure that the opinion leaders in our area are knowledgeable about the field.

Lastly, we must reassert our leadership in community and civic organizations. In the "old days," many city and government leaders were people directly involved in agriculture. These individuals are rare to find in today's society. There is not a shortage of agricultural leaders, by any means. However, there seems to be a tendency for these leaders to concentrate on agricultural organizations and interests rather than on community and civic activities.

Yes, there are three things we must do if we want to become effective spokespersons for



National Prepared Public Speaker Winner Lauri Vaughn of the Lubbock Cooper FFA Chapter in Lubbock, Texas, urges FFA members to be spokespeople for agriculture to combat inaccurate and negative information about the industry.

agriculture: (1) we must secure accurate information on agriculture, (2) we must seek out opportunities for agricultural awareness, and (3) we must reassert our role as leaders in non-agricultural organizations and activities.

Knowing these three things, I leave you with one final question: Will you speak for agriculture?



NATIONAL EXTEMPOREANOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING

Sponsored by American Farm Bureau Federation

Gifted orators from across the country showed convention attendees that they could think on their feet during the 1998 Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest. Each contestant was given 30 minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech on a randomly drawn agricultural topic. The four finalists earned a \$1,000 scholarship for their outstanding efforts.

MAINTAINING A VOICE FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE IN AN URBAN-DOMINATED CONGRESS

Barrett Keene, Plant City Sr. FFA Chapter, Plant City, Fla.

Farmers all over our nation battle a number of formidable problems each and every year. For instance, insects, unpredictable market prices and even less predictable weather. But none are tougher or more persistent than the construction of new homes. Like an advancing army, endless rows of pink-roofed houses squish our farmers from all sides. It's not only decreasing agricultural lands, but slowly squeezing out a way of life that agricultural families have enjoyed and developed for several generations.

Good afternoon, my name is Barrett Keene and I am a proud member and representative of the Plant City Senior FFA Chapter and of the Florida FFA Association. Today I have been asked to speak to you about maintaining a voice for American agriculture in an urban-dominated Congress and in doing this we will focus upon three things. First will be a loss of agricultural lands. And our second point of analysis, we will focus upon exercising our agricultural voice in our democracy. And in our third and final point of analysis we will focus upon reasons for faith and appreciation of the American farmer.

According to *Rulers* magazine in Washington, D.C., we are currently losing over 4 million acres of agricultural lands each and every year. That is quite a large amount. But let's break it down. That means that we are losing 10,960 acres each and every day, 456.62 acres an hour, and 7.61 acres of agricultural land each and every minute. That is scary. And another perspective, the *Washington Post* released that in the 1950s there was over half of a football field over to the 50 yard line and that was the equivalent of acreage and crop production. Yet today that figure has been reduced to the 27-yard line, and by the year 2020 that figure is supposed to reduce to the 20-yard line. That is scary as well. And with this loss of agricultural lands we have a loss of knowledge and appreciation about the American agriculturalist and the job that he or she does.

And that leads us into our second point of analysis, exercising our voice in our democracy. Agriculturalists by tradition are not quitters, we are fighters. He or she, whoever it may be, will take advantage of

NATIONAL WINNER

Barrett Keene
Plant City Sr. FFA Chapter
Plant City, Florida

THIRD PLACE

Parker Bane
Ridgeview FFA Chapter
Arrowsmith, Illinois

SECOND PLACE

Erin Morrow
Des Moines FFA Chapter
Folsom, New Mexico

FOURTH PLACE

Matt Archer
Kerman FFA Chapter
Kerman, California



each and every opportunity to take a proactive approach to educate American consumers about the benefits and necessity of American agriculture. Because without agriculture, we don't have food and without food we are not here today.

And our third and final point of analysis we will focus upon reasons for faith in the American agriculturalist. Today agriculturalists are taking advantage of the opportunities presented to them; whether it is niche markets such as organic farming or technological advancements such as growing plants in hydroponics; American agriculturalists are diversifying our operations. And in that we will succeed. We will encourage faith not only in an urban-dominated Congress, but an urban dominated country. Do the math. With only 2 percent of American population involved in

agriculture that means that the other 98 percent is not educated about agriculture or the issues that affect our industry. And that just reaffirms the statement that we need to back up and take a proactive approach to American agriculture and to educating consumers about our industry.

In conclusion, I have faith in the farmer that wakes up at 5:30 each and every morning, rolls out of bed and shaves the stubble from his weather-beaten face to walk down to his barn or to his field and work for 12 hours not only to feed his family, but to feed ours as well. This same farmer then comes home and reads and educates his children with the Bible on the ways that they can properly live their lives. There is no doubt, at least in my mind, that technological advancements, niche markets, basically diversifying our operations and using our agricultural voice and our democracy, American agriculturalists can incorporate this with the blood, sweat and tears of tomorrow's agriculturalists and we will maintain a strong and effective voice in an urban-dominated Congress.



AGRICIENCE STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Sponsored by Monsanto Company

Lab coats, microscopes and petri dishes are learning tools that winners of the Agriscience Student Recognition Program are quite comfortable with.

Christie Flechsenhar of Cascade, Mont., was named the national winner. Flechsenhar's study, "Control of the Noxious Range Weed *Euphorbia esula* by Fairy Rings," investigated biological controls of this weed and the various delivery systems to administer the control. Flechsenhar proved that the fairy ring fungus stops the growth of leafy spurge and prevents recurrence of the weed.

Flechsenhar received \$5,000 in cash scholarships and a plaque for her achievements. Flechsenhar is a member of the Cascade FFA Chapter and her advisors are Duane Gebhardt and Frank LaLiberty.

The national runner-up was Chris Black of Bakersfield, Calif. He tested regional citrus groves for the presence and concentration of pesticide-resistant California red scale, an insect which damages the skin of oranges. He earned \$3,000 in cash scholarships and was presented with a plaque. Black is a member of the North High-Bakersfield FFA Chapter, and his advisor is Christine Dickson.



Shannon Wilcox shakes Chris Black's hand of Bakersfield, Calif. Chris was this year's runner up in the Agriscience Student Program for his study of red scale on citrus fruit.

NATIONAL WINNER:

Christie Flechsenhar
Cascade FFA Chapter
Cascade, Mont.

NATIONAL

FINALISTS:

ARIZONA: Alana Jacobson, Carl Hayden

CALIFORNIA: Chris Black, North High-Bakersfield

COLORADO: Robin Schreiber, Woodlin

MONTANA: Christie Flechsenhar, Cascade

NEW MEXICO: Jared Purvines, Des Moines

SOUTH DAKOTA: Tiffany Anderson, Lemmon

WISCONSIN: Prescott Phillips, Green Bay East; Erica L. Stellick, Verona

NATIONAL RUNNER-UP:

Chris Black
North High-Bakersfield
FFA Chapter
Bakersfield, Calif.



A gigantic smile shines across Christie Flechsenhar's face, when she was named the 1998 Agriscience Student Winner.

AGRISCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.

NATIONAL WINNER:

Lisa Konkel, Big Foot FFA Chapter, Walworth, Wis.

NATIONAL FINALISTS:

CALIFORNIA: Vera Elizabeth Gomes, Morgan Hill, Morgan Hill FFA Chapter

LOUISIANA: Cynthia S. Toney, Ponchatoula, Covington FFA Chapter

WISCONSIN: Tim Buttles, Wilson, Eau Claire North FFA Chapter; Lisa Marie Konkel, Lake Geneva, Big Foot FFA Chapter



Lisa Konkel accepts her plaque as the national Agriscience Teacher of the Year. Konkel's innovative curriculum quadrupled her program's enrollment.

Lisa Konkel's innovative approach to teaching quadrupled the number of students in her program. This year, she was rewarded with the honor of Agriscience Teacher of the Year at the national FFA convention. Konkel, of Big Foot Union High School in Walworth, Wis., earned a \$1,500 cash award and a plaque recognizing her skills in teaching science principles and emerging technologies related to agriculture.

Konkel's belief in applied learning allows students to benefit from a diverse agriscience curriculum. Her

students gain a solid background in laboratory techniques and in understanding complex scientific principles that apply to most areas of science and agriculture. Konkel's biotechnology class is recognized as a certified science course by the University of Wisconsin admissions system.

The Agriscience Teacher of the Year program recognizes outstanding agricultural education instructors who emphasize agriscience technology in their curricula through programs in biological, environmental and agribusiness technologies, and engineering sciences.

FFA AGRISCIENCE FAIR CONTINUES TO HONOR INNOVATIVENESS

This contest is sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Scholarships for participants are sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund, Asgrow Seed Company, AgrEvo Liberty Corn & Soybean Products Team and Caterpillar Agricultural Products, Inc.

The Agriscience Fair allowed students to compete in science-based projects in four divisions: division I (7-9th grade), division II (10-12th grade), division III (team, 7-9th grade) and division IV (team, 10-12th grade). Each winning participant receives either a cash award or scholarship. All division winners are presented their award on the Municipal Auditorium Stage during convention sessions. The categories in each division are: Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science, Botany, Engineering, Environmental Science and Zoology.

WINNERS INCLUDE:

Category: Zoology

Division I: Blake Costello, Jefferson FFA, West Virginia

Division II: Nathan Dawson, Sarcoxie FFA, Missouri

Division III: Adam Weatherbee & Jeremy Lawrence, Westwood FFA, Arizona

Division IV: Lacey Drouet & Michelle Griffith, Sumner FFA, Washington

Category: Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science

Division I: Trevor Hill, Jefferson FFA, West Virginia

Division II: Alana Jacobson, Carl Hayden FFA, Arizona

Division IV: Jeanna Little & Desiree Cordas, Sumner FFA, Washington

Category: Engineering

Division I: Becky McCulloch, Galt FFA, California

Division II: John Aliucci, Jefferson FFA, West Virginia

Division IV: Warren Brown & James Ballou, Judson FFA, Texas

Category: Environmental Sciences

Division I: Josh Householder, Jefferson FFA, West Virginia

Division II: Austin DeCock, Lake Park Audubon FFA, Minnesota

Division IV: Milissa Shipman & Jim Tullis, Carthage FFA, Missouri

Category: Botany

Division I: Jessica Geistweidt, East Central FFA, Texas

Division II: Paul Wichmann, Pelican Rapids FFA, Minnesota

Division IV: Dana Phifer & Aleque Stegall, Piedmont High School FFA, North Carolina

H.O. SARGENT AWARDS

Sponsored by Merial

Dr. H. O. Sargent was a pioneer in starting New Farmers of America, a sister organization to FFA for African-American students. He began his efforts in Virginia, where the New Farmers of Virginia was created in 1928. The idea spread to other southern states, and in 1931, the New Farmers of America was born, expanding opportunities in agriculture for those members. The NFA was incorporated into the National FFA Organization in 1965, and the dream of creating new opportunities in premier leadership, personal growth and career success in agriculture lives on through the H.O. Sargent award. This recognition began in 1995 to honor both members and adults across the country who work to promote diversity in agricultural education and the FFA.

NON-MEMBER WINNERS

MARYLAND: Theresa Watson, Career and Tech Support Service Team Aid, Walkersville

NORTH CAROLINA: Gary E. Moore, Professor, Raleigh

OKLAHOMA: W. G. Parker, Treasurer/REAP, Muskogee

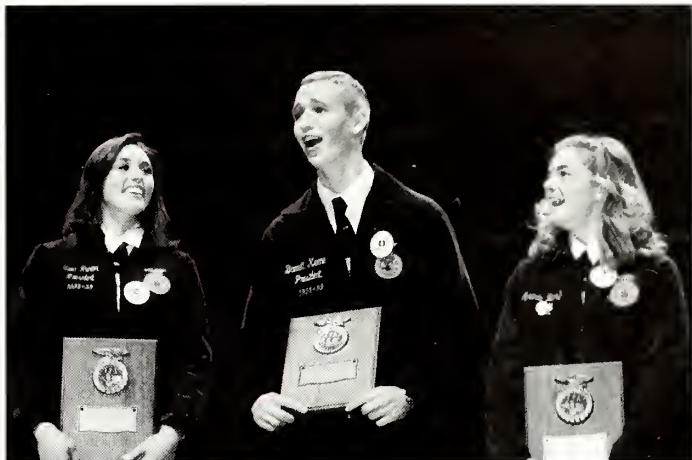


The H.O. Sargent Award was established to commend adults and members who strive to increase diversity in agricultural education and FFA. The 1998 recipients were (from left to right) W.G. Parker, Amy Mathews (accepting for Theresa Watson), and Gary Moore.

Adult winners, listed above, were selected from individuals who have been involved in agricultural education and have implemented new programs to promote agricultural diversity. Each winner received a plaque and national recognition during the Friday afternoon convention session.

MEMBER WINNER

FLORIDA: Barrett Keene, Plant City Sr.



Barrett Keene wins the first of his two national awards as his name is announced as the H.O. Sargent Award winner. He was also victorious in the National Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest. National finalist Tara Runion and Amanda Richardson share in the excitement.

NATIONAL MEMBER FINALISTS:

NORTH CAROLINA: Tara Runion, South Rowan

OREGON: Amanda Richardson, Crater

TENNESSEE: Grace Page, Dyer County

Barrett Keene, from Plant City, Fla., won the H.O. Sargent Award for his work in integrating mentally handicapped students into FFA. His involvement in the promotion of diversity began because he had three relatives who were mentally handicapped, and he wanted to show other people their positive attitudes. He established a club at his school called "Buddies In Growing," or "B.I.G.," which teams special-needs students with regular education students for school activities. These students have increased chapter membership and they proudly wear their FFA jackets at various activities. Keene said, "These students are without a doubt the most enthusiastic members present."

For his efforts, Keene was presented with \$500 and a plaque. This is the second year to recognize FFA members in honor of H.O. Sargent.

NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Years of study, training and practice paid off for the winners of the National Career Development Events. Teams from across the United States competed for top honors in event areas from forestry to agricultural mechanics. Participants evaluated, identified, analyzed, tasted, sniffed, repaired and calculated—all in hopes of achieving top honors.

The results of each event were announced at sponsor-hosted breakfasts or luncheons at the end of the week. During Saturday morning's session, the winners took the stage to receive their awards.

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM

Sponsored by Elanco Animal Health, A Division of Eli Lilly and Company

First Place: Ritzville FFA Chapter, Ritzville, Wash.

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

Sponsored by Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund; and Firestone Ag Tire Division

First Place: Cascade FFA Chapter, Cascade, Mont.

High Individual: Todd Byrne, Cascade, Mont.

AGRICULTURAL SALES

Sponsored by Asgrow Seed Company

First Place: Troy FFA Chapter, Troy, Mo.

High Individual: Desiree Cordas, Sumner, Wash.

DAIRY

Sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Incorporated and Babson Bros. Co./SURGE

First Place: Edgewood FFA

Chapter, Edgewood, Iowa

High Individual: Ryan Griffen, Stewartville, Minn.

DAIRY FOODS

Sponsored by Dairy Management, Inc.; Patz Sales, Inc.®; and Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.

First Place: Hanford FFA Chapter, Hanford, Calif.

High Individual: Travis Ferreira, Hanford, Calif.

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by John Deere

First Place: Lost Springs FFA Chapter, Lost Springs, Kan.

High Individual: Natalie Noble, Vale, Ore.

FLORICULTURE

Sponsored by American Floral Endowment; Ball Horticultural company; and The Solaris Group; Ortho•Roundup•Greensweep; and Witco Corporation Scholarships by Sun Company

First Place: Bear Creek FFA

Chapter, Bear Creek, N.C.

High Individual: Jeremy Hart, Bear Creek, N.C.

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by Kellogg Company

First Place: Junction City FFA Chapter, Junction City, Ore.

High Individual: Mary Goodrich, Houston, Texas

FORESTRY

Sponsored by Champion International Corporation; Schrade Cutlery; and Union Camp Corporation

First Place: Dunmore FFA Chapter, Dunmore, W.V.

High Individual: Nathaniel Clutter, Dunmore, W.V.

HORSE EVALUATION

Sponsored by Chrysler Corporation Fund—Dodge Trucks; and Manna Pro Corporation, "The Calf Manna® Company"

First Place: Queen Anne's County FFA, Centerville, Md.

High Individual: Michelle Durham, Centerville, Md.

LIVESTOCK EVALUATION

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.

First Place: Council Grove FFA Chapter, Council Grove, Kan.

High Individual: Cody Sankey, Council Grove, Kan.

MARKETING PLAN

Sponsored by Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company

First Place: Philip FFA Chapter, Philip, S.D.

MEATS EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by Excel Corporation; Hormel Foods Corporation; and Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation

First Place: La Vernia FFA Chapter, La Vernia, Texas

High Individual: Eric Doege, La Vernia, Texas

NURSERY/LANDSCAPE

Sponsored by Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company; Kubota Tractor Corporation; Valent U.S.A. Corp.; and Environmental Industries Scholarships by American Nursery and Landscape Association;

First Place: Ramseur FFA Chapter, Ramseur, N.C.

High Individual: Angie McCormick, Minn.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Sponsored by Novartis Crop Protection, Inc.

First Place: Bear River FFA Chapter, Grass Valley, Calif.

POULTRY

Sponsored by Tyson Foods, Inc. and American Proteins, Inc.

First Place: Springdale FFA Chapter, Springdale, Ark.

High Individual: Carol Spruill, Jefferson, Ga.

NATIONAL FFA TALENT

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

This convention saw one of the largest talent troupes ever assembled: nearly 100 FFA members in 40 acts, representing 18 states. By the end of the convention, they had given 400 performances, including nearly 50 special events. Banquets, local schools, civic clubs, the American Royal, Bartle Stage, main stage, Finals Stage, you name it - they were there, serving as FFA ambassadors to the community. On Thursday, members were dancing in the aisles to the musical stylings of the talent performers during the annual talent review.

Among the myriad of vocalists performing country tunes, some to their own accompaniment, there were some standout acts. Travis and Tony Wolf from Spencer, Wis., towered above stage as dancing stiltwalkers. Cousins Jose and Miguel Castro of the Gadsden, N.M., FFA chapter displayed their skills as professional Mexican rodeo ropers. They joined gospel quartets from Alabama, rock bands from Texas and a "Titanic" duet by Oklahoma FFA members.

National FFA Talent Director Gary Maricle, principal of Excelsior Springs High School in nearby Liberty, Mo., was back for his 13th year, assisted by convention talent veterans Rob Enbody and Scott Stewart.



Jose Castro of Gadsden, N.M., awed the crowd Thursday evening at FFA Talent. Their rope mastery demonstrated a beautiful example of the Mexican Charro connecting traditions of the past with enjoyment of present generations.

ALABAMA: Blake Cody, Eufaula; Rich Clark, Eufaula; Brittney Collum, Red Bay; Aftan Collum, Red Bay; Dorothy Dickerson, Jacksonville; Devin Dotson, Red Bay; Daniel Garrison, Red Bay; Matthew Gilbert, Eufaula; Mitch Gissendaner, Eufaula; David Hall, Eufaula; Kacey Hester, Red Bay; Kristin Holland, Red Bay; Lauren Holloway, Jacksonville; Derek Humphries, Red Bay; Kimberlee Inmon, Jacksonville; Charlene Kessler, Eufaula; Allen Kirkland, Eufaula; Dustin Miller, Red Bay; Gannon Nunley, Red Bay; Dustin Nunley, Red Bay; Melissa Parker, Red Bay; Blake Patrick, Eufaula; Becca Sandifer, Eufaula; Christina Taylor, Jacksonville; Eric Thorn, Red Bay; David Warren, Eufaula
COLORADO: Anya Mack, Arickaree
ILLINOIS: Megan Walters, Gibson City
INDIANA: Paul Abraham, Triton Central; Drew Arbuckle, Triton Central; Michael Arthur, Triton Central; Krista Benshiemer, Triton Central; Katie Evans, Triton Central; Angie Guidry, Triton Central; Justin Hammer, Triton Central; Ben Hilgert, Triton Central; Ryan Kern, Triton Central; Kristen Knapp, Triton Central; Rachel Prather, Triton Central; Shea Ratliff, Triton Central; John Siminski, Triton Central; Sarah Steele, Triton Central; Sarah Wager, Triton Central; Justin Watson, Triton Central; Amanda Zook, Triton Central
IOWA: Daniel Schott, Tipton; Jesse Whaley, Tipton
MISSISSIPPI: Joseph McCollum, Northeast Jones; Courtney Scroggin, Newton Municipal

MINNESOTA: Travis Bitker, Tracy; Matt Knott, Tracy; Justin Lessman, Tracy; Mandi Skoglund, Tracy; Sue Syverson, Tracy; Theresa Wytaske, Hayfield
MISSOURI: Leah Reid, Sweet Springs
NEVADA: Lacey Takacs, Winnemucca
NEW MEXICO: Miguel Castro, Gadsden; Jose Castro, Gadsden; Bethany Sanchez, Hondo; Summer Savage, Portales
NORTH CAROLINA: Brittany Whitmire, Rosman
OHIO: Kea Maria Jones, Benjamin Logan; Katie Mabry, Fairbanks
OKLAHOMA: Mike Albert, Beaver; Dawn Drummonds, Stigler; Rachael Hall, Ryan; Danielle Jarvis, Gutmon; Kristin Johnson, Mt. View/Gotebo; Elizabeth Kinney, Mooreland; Terah McKee, Haworth; Lloyd Newton, Ryan; Nicole Nichols, Valliant; Carrie Trentham, Balko
PENNSYLVANIA: Sarah Fyock, Penns Manor
SOUTH DAKOTA: Quin Peterson, Chamberlain
TEXAS: Eric Brunson, Chisum; Robert Caldwell, Community; Phillip Cato, Chisum; Erik Chapman, Chisum; Daniel Dehmer, Stephen F. Austin; Jennifer Duerkson, Chisum; Gabriel Garcia, Lytle; Jon Hoyt, Stephen F. Austin; Tiffany Lucas, Humble; Aaron McBride, Chisum; Josh McVey, Stephen F. Austin; Keri Settle, Humble; Kellen Shaw, Anahuac; Zachary Wilkerson, Sunray
WASHINGTON: Gayla Graves, Cashmere
WISCONSIN: Travis Wolf, Spencer; Anthony Wolf, Spencer

NATIONAL FFA CHORUS

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

*M*any have said that music is food for the soul. It can lift your spirits, remind you of the past, and give hope for the future. The 1998 National FFA Chorus stirred many emotions in the hearts of all FFA members and guests. Their beautiful voices rose to the rafters as they sang the national anthem, while during later performances, members laughed at the fun and witty humor in a salute to Disney's "The Jungle Book."

This 100-member body of talented FFA members gave 100 percent of themselves in powerful performances throughout general sessions and the National Band and Chorus Concert Friday night. Whistles and cheers rang through Municipal Auditorium as the male vocalists sang "Give a Man Enough Rope." Tears welled in audience member's eyes as the chorus sang a testament of hope during Friday's morning session.

Chorus members from coast to coast dedicated many hours of rehearsal to prepare for their performances. Roger Kelley of Washington State University directed this wonderfully orchestrated group, and was assisted by Dr. Jerry Berthiaume.



Members of the National FFA Chorus open their mouths and musical spirits as they sing a catchy tune during a general convention session.

ALASKA: Logan Bohman, Palmer

CALIFORNIA: Traci Erickson, Fallbrook; Aaron Johnson, Serrano; Adrienne Shor, Santa Rosa

COLORADO: Rebecca Schmidt, Sterling

CONNECTICUT: Taylor Chambers, Lyman Hall

IOWA: Melissa Carlson, Rockwell City-Lytton; Andrew Gray, Decorah; James Hall, West Marshall; Emily Harktkemeyer, Monticello; Robert Hughes, Murray; Jamie Kelley, Rockwell/Sheffield; Josh Kempers, Sioux Center; Angela Monthei, South Hamilton; Crystal Ostrem, South Hamilton; Nathaniel Roelfs; Lacey Schmitt, Rockford; Kari Twedt, Decorah

IDAHO: Kasia Kohler, Firth

ILLINOIS: Jonathon Hampton, Chicago Ag Science; Bradley Hofbauer, Cissna Park

INDIANA: Sara Bailey, Greenfield; Justin Hill, Rossville; Joseph Martin, Lewis Cass

KANSAS: Jamie Brothers, Winfield; Keith Bryant, Arkansas City; Jessica Henson, Ulysses; Lindsay Knouft, Holton; Naomi Read, Jayhawk Linn; Clayton Reed, Hope

KENTUCKY: Jennifer Warren, Taylor County

MARYLAND: Toby Hoffman, Clear Spring

MICHIGAN: Katie Balaam, Lowell; Rebecca Durant, Benzie Central; Shannon Finnegan, Lowell; Carrie Maust, Lakers; Michelle McPherson, Montague

MINNESOTA: Johnna Anderson, Evansville; Daniel Carlson, Murray County Central; Marshall Dornink, Fillmore Central; Andrea Halverson, Blue Earth Area; Nick Peter, Blue Earth Area; Anna Popowski, Marshall-Lincoln High; Angela Sanborn, Alexandria

MISSOURI: Bonnie Bandelier, Gallatin; Carissa Barnes, Trenton; Jeffrey Binney, Trenton; Chanse Dennis, Trenton; Jeffery Johnson, Trenton; Heather Nordwald, North Callaway; Tessa Robertson, Ash Grove

MISSISSIPPI: Patrick Black, Weir

NORTH DAKOTA: Jessica Kenner, Leeds

NEBRASKA: Lacey Beemer, Imperial; Nicholas Clausen, Logan View; Nicholas Erdman, Bayard; James Griffin, Medicine Valley; Shaun Kracke, Wilber-Clatonia; Maggie Miller, Bayard; Melody Nelms, Republican Valley; James Oltman, Wilber-Clatonia

NEW MEXICO: Samantha Dodd, Melrose

OHIO: Audrey Belleville, Bowling Green; Kylee Fent, Parkway; Lynette Kinser, Liberty Union

OKLAHOMA: Aden Butler, Reydon; Cody Chaloner, Hinton; Kayh Christensen, Thomas-Fay-Custer; Cassandra Crissup, Waynoka; Anthony Dalrymple, Sterling; Jared Deck, Thomas-Fay-Custer; Lela Faulkenberry, Savanna; Christy Foust, Thomas-Fay-Custer; Paul Geisinger, Seiling; Dustin Harvey, Carnegie; Rachel Hood, Vanoss; Larry Imke, Shattuck; Nathan Mueller, Guymon; James Roller, Clinton

OREGON: Todd Tschida, Ontario

SOUTH DAKOTA: Karen Kezar, Alcester-Hudson; Doug Peterson, Clark; Kathryn Strom, Heresford

TEXAS: Christopher Ahrens, Gregory-Portland; DeShun Callier, Arp; Joseph Edwards, Chisum; Shawn Johnson, Texas City; Kymberly McCain, Synder; Bo Petru, Gregory; Calli Pierce, Snyder; Anthony Ruiz III, Bryan; Laura Sanders, Arlington; Jessie Schumann, Troy; David Willeford, Dayton

WASHINGTON: Chauncy Agustin, Yelm; Trevor Haas, Cathlamet; Joseph Richardson, Yelm; Desiree Zuger, St. John/Endicott

WISCONSIN: Kelly Clark, Mayville; Eric Evenstad, Westby; Nathan Harker, Shullsburg; Ryan Senn, River Falls; Erin Vangen, Rio

WYOMING: Seth Heinert, Devil's Tower

NATIONAL FFA BAND

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

FFA members were energized before each session by thundering sounds of the National FFA Band. Whether they were doing the famous “chicken dance,” or grooving to the tune of the Blues Brothers, members actively prepared themselves for the day’s events.

The National FFA Band consisted of 105 students from across the nation. Each band member sent in an audition tape to win a coveted seat on the national stage. These dedicated individuals traveled to Kansas City five days before the start of the convention to assemble as a group for the first time. They practiced for countless hours to bring convention participants the musical renditions of “The Lion King,” “Titanic,” and classic rock n’ roll.

The streets of Kansas City once again heard the triumphant beat of the National FFA Band. The band led a parade Friday morning to pay tribute to Kansas City for its hospitality over the past 71 years. Always on the move, the band gave rodeo fans a reason to stomp their feet to the down-home beat of the drums at the American Royal Friday evening. The band was once again directed by the musical artistry of Mr. Gene Englerth, and his assistant was Mr. Joe LaJoye.

ALABAMA: Judson Brady, Attalla

ARIZONA: Lauren Greenberg, Chandler; Julia Johnson, Payson

ARKANSAS: Kyle Sudmeyer, Lake Hamilton; Mitchell Ward, Lake Hamilton

CALIFORNIA: Boorus Yim, Canoga Park

COLORADO: Matthew Geu, Peetz; Amanda Hancock, Crook County; Jessica Phelps, Peetz

CONNECTICUT: Calvin Croll, Lyman Hall; Jennifer Plasky, Southington

GEORGIA: Donnie Malcom, Oconee County

IDAHO: Clint Stevenson, Meridian

ILLINOIS: Steven Ray, Tri-Point; Raye Taylor, Alexis; Chad Taylor, Midlothian

INDIANA: Chris Salkeld, Scottsburg; Todd Schworm, Angola

IOWA: Rachel Ahrens, West Branch; Jennifer Heeren, South Hamilton; Matthew Jassen, Adair-Casey; Julie Lange, Linn-Mar; Scott Lundquist, South O’Brien; Amy Pint, Wapsie; Benjamin Ramsay, North Polk; Sara Rogis, DeWitt Central; Tyler Smith, Humboldt; Rhonda Young, Walnut

KANSAS: Shawná Dillon, Atwood; Lucas Warford, Newton

KENTUCKY: Jennifer O’Banion, Taylor County; Stephen

Wilmot, McCreary Central

MAINE: Perry Randall, Ashland



FFA members blew their own horns during the convention as participants in the National FFA Band.

MICHIGAN: Kendra Butters, Homer; Rebecca Carr, Hastings; Noelle Dunckel, Laingsburg; Jeremiah Johnson, Hastings; Ryan Robinson, Sebewaing; Andrew Safie, Hastings; Dawn Smith, A.C.A.T.E.C.

MINNESOTA: Anita Boesen, Alexandria; Wade Fowler, Howard Lake-Waverly-Wenstea; Elissa Otterness, Spring Grove; Rita Schaefer, Frazee

MISSOURI: Amanda Dyke, Moberly Area Vo-Tech; Tina Holtmeier, Washington; Rusty Lee, Mtn. Grove; Rex Smiley, Milan; Andrew Thornton, Fayette; Erica Jean Voeks, Smithville; Andy Weldon, Gallatin; Jill Wilkinson, Galatin; Kenny Youtsey, Gallatin

MONTANA: Derek Larson, Manhattan; Amanda McClure, Missoula; Michael Reichert, Huntley Project

NEBRASKA: Adrienne Auch, Blair; Darby Bishop, Battle Creek; Dustin Kreifels, Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca;

Jeremiah Richardson, Grant

NORTH DAKOTA: Shanna Gratton, J.E. Eastgate Larimore; Brad Lambrecht, Lisbon

OHIO: Adrian Marie Bauer, Teays Valley; Jesse Buxton, Warsaw; Doug Eichelberger, Crestview; Daniel Finfrock, New Carlisle; Abby Gerken, Holgate; Paul

Hays, Eaton; Daniel Kramer, Eaton; Michael Prasuhn, Ansonia

OKLAHOMA: Cory Davis, Watonga; Paul Goeringer, Cordell; Brooke Hoisington,

Cashion; Stacy Ingram, Caney Valley; Jalaina Johnson, Tishomingo; Brian Leisher, Okeene; Kristie Sharp, Owasso; Harlan Yocham, Sapulpa

OREGON: Naaman Horn, Oakland, Amanda Hancock;

Prineville

SOUTH CAROLINA: Lyndsey Hall, Abbeville

SOUTH DAKOTA: Trent Blare, Winner; Elizabeth Boos, Milbank

TENNESSEE: Gary Jenkins, Riverside

TEXAS: Alexis Balko, Calallen; Brooke Ann Brochtrup, Woodville; Samantha Cartwright, Mexia; Roger Cary, Cross Plains; Travis Ross Davis, Cushing; Roel Omar Guerra Jr., Rio Grande City; Alisha Hughes, Kirbyville; Denise Phillips, Katy; Aaron Reese, Childress; Melissa Schrade, Somerset; Matthew Stout, Rowe

WASHINGTON: Jess Langdell, Columbia; Ivan Meyen, Reardan; Matt Stillmon, Mt. View; Teresa Stocking, South Kitsap

WISCONSIN: Brandi Abegglen, Colby; Jennifer Blake, Cameron; Caryn Eberle, Monroe; Stephanie Feider, New Holstein; Kristopher Klassy, New Glarus; Lori McFarlin, Cochrane-Fountain City; Karin Miller, Marion; Karin Miller, Marion; Amalie Neumann, Colby; Mary Pockat, Marion; Denise Schwartz, Colfax; Melanie Wells, Watertown; Dana Wiegel, Darlington; Mayme Zinke, Royall

WYOMING: Sydne Clark, Devil’s Tower; Spencer Clark, Devil’s Tower

Proficiency Awards

PROFICIENCY AWARDS

The following 167 members have made the most of the first two lines of the FFA motto, "Learning to do, doing to learn." National Proficiency Award finalists and winners have excelled in their supervised agricultural experience programs over their FFA careers. The awards vary widely, from traditional production agriculture to the newer food marketing, environmental science and agricultural technology areas. FFA members are making strides in every aspect of agriculture and agribusiness, and the 42 proficiency awards recognize their achievements.

Judges interviewed each finalist, and inspected their record books. The winner in each area was presented a plaque and a cash award on stage, and earned the chance to participate in an international agricultural travel experience.

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS

Sponsored by R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company and Farm Progress Companies, Inc.

ILLINOIS: Robin Niehaus, Hillsboro

KENTUCKY: Brandon Bussell, Nicholas Co.

TEXAS: Jeremy Derington, Plainview

VIRGINIA: William Mader, Stonewall Jackson

AG MECH/TECHNICAL SYSTEMS, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by CARQUEST Corporation and Chrysler Corporation - Dodge Trucks

CALIFORNIA: Joshua Weaver, Ripon

IOWA: Levi Buxton, Creston

OKLAHOMA: Levi Compton, Mooreland

WISCONSIN: Joseph Lulich, Ashland

AG MECH/TECHNICAL SYSTEMS, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Case Corporation

IOWA: Nathan Johnson, Red Oak

MAINE: Chad Shaw, Presque Isle

NORTH CAROLINA: Andrew Corriher, South Rowan

WISCONSIN: Keith Caulfield, Montello

AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

Sponsored by Ag Processing, Inc./Consolidated Nutrition LC; and Archer Daniels Midland Company

ALABAMA: Clint Jarrell, Beulah

CALIFORNIA: Cory Avila, Gustine

MINNESOTA: David Schueller, Wabasso

MISSOURI: Jared Flinn, Troy

AGRICULTURAL SALES AND/OR SERVICE

Sponsored by Case Corporation; CHEVY TRUCKS; The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company; and Vigortone Ag Products

CALIFORNIA: Adam Braziel, Elk Grove

INDIANA: Brian Warren, Wawasee

OHIO: Barton Curtis Fannin, Teays Valley

UTAH: Cassie Ercanbrack, Payson

BEEF PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Cactus Feeders, Inc.; Fort Dodge Animal Health; Evergreen Mills, Inc.; and Kent Feeds, Inc.

CALIFORNIA: Eric Hafensfeld, Kern Valley

INDIANA: Jared Nussbaum, Adams Central

NEBRASKA: Steve Coufal, Howells-Clarkson

OKLAHOMA: Misti Gleason, Thomas-Fay-Custer

CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCTION

Sponsored by CENEX FOUNDATION

CALIFORNIA: Frank Junio, Tulare Union

KANSAS: Jason Stoffer, Chapman

MISSOURI: Jennifer Lyon, Norborne

SOUTH DAKOTA: Kara Nagel, Gettysburg



Surprise and elation overtook Laura Anne Baker of Sanger, Calif., as she heard her name announced as National Diversified Livestock Production—Entrepreneur proficiency award winner.

Proficiency Awards

DAIRY PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by ABS Global, Inc.; Alfa Laval Agri Inc.; and Manna Pro Corporation, "The Calf Manna® Company."

CALIFORNIA: Marlon Marquez, Chino

TENNESSEE: Jason Moore, Warren Co.

TEXAS: Ernest Bailes IV, Shepherd

WISCONSIN: Paul Eisentraut, Waupaca

DAIRY PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Protiva, a Unit of Monsanto Company

CONNECTICUT: Stacey Stearns, Storrs Regional

NORTH CAROLINA: Franklin Joe Finney, South Rowan

SOUTH DAKOTA: Matt DeMent, McCook Central

WISCONSIN: Josh Sabo, Marshfield

DIVERSIFIED CROP, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by Cargill

ILLINOIS: Phil Read, Midland

IOWA: Leah Blackford, Linn-Mar

MINNESOTA: Hector Matthys, Lakeview

WISCONSIN: David Jennings, Rio



Shane Stevens of Chickasha, OK, accepts the National Forage Proficiency Award as his advisors, who are also his parents, beam with pride.

DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by National Crop Insurance Services; AgrEvo; and "Rain and Hail"—The Crop Insurance Leader

COLORADO: Justin Mertens, New Raymer

ILLINOIS: Dave Bent, Liberty

OKLAHOMA: Todd Ice, Thomas

TENNESSEE: Levin Billings II, Warren County

DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by Continental Grain Company/Cattle Feeding Division, Pork Division and Animal Nutrition Division; and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

CALIFORNIA: Laura Anne Baker, Sanger

KANSAS: Jennifer Ryan, South Haven

SOUTH DAKOTA: Melissa Streff, McCook Central

VIRGINIA: Troy Lawson, Buffalo Gap



Hector Matthys of Lakeview, Minn., is escorted to the spotlight as his name is announced as the national winner of the Diversified Crop Production—Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award.

DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Continental Grain Company/Cattle Feeding Division, Pork Division and Animal Nutrition Division; Allflex USA, Inc.; and United Soybean Board

CALIFORNIA: Chet Mebane, North High-Bakersfield

NEBRASKA: Craig Belina, Howells-Clarkson

NEW MEXICO: Kami Casabonne, Artesia

WISCONSIN: Karl Bobholz Jr., Randolph

EMERGING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by Caterpillar Inc.

FLORIDA: Chad Branford, North Marion

MISSOURI: Traci Temmen, Belle

OHIO: Mark Winkle, Blanchester

WISCONSIN: Megan Mary Schaefer, Marshfield

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Sponsored by IMC Global Inc. and Carolina Biological Supply Company

CALIFORNIA: Stan Young, Fresno-Pershing

MONTANA: Christie Flechsenhar, Cascade

TENNESSEE: Melissa Hope Honaker, McMinn Co.

WISCONSIN: Rose Riemer, Waupaca

EQUINE SCIENCE

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.; Red Brand Non-Climb Horse Fence/Made by Keystone Steel & Wire Company; and American Paint Horse Association

CALIFORNIA: Jake Parnell, Bear River

KENTUCKY: Walter Vest Jr., Morgan County

NEVADA: Jaime Hustace, Smith Valley

WISCONSIN: Angela Mueller, New Holstein

Proficiency Awards



Years of hard work pay off for Tim McDermott, who won the Feed Grain Production, Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award.

FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

ILLINOIS: Tim McDermott, Waterloo

IOWA: Michael Bliek, West Lyon

KANSAS: Steven Friess, Labette County

WISCONSIN: Joe Ostrowski, Amherst

FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

MISSOURI: Brent Fast, Liberal

OHIO: Curt Goubeaux, Versailles

SOUTH DAKOTA: Paul Roling, McCook Central

WISCONSIN: Douglas Jung, Randolph

FIBER CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Griffin Corporation; Cotton Grower; and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

CALIFORNIA: Josh Pitigliano, Tulare Union

LOUISIANA: Matthew Pickett, North Central

OKLAHOMA: Justin Abernathy, Altus

TENNESSEE: Kristen Beth Moore, Halls

FLORICULTURE

Sponsored by American Floral Endowment; The Kroger Company; Valent U.S.A. Corp.; and Greenhouse Grower

CALIFORNIA: Jaclyn McComas, Quartz Hill

FLORIDA: Jesse Sapp, Lake Placid Senior

GEORGIA: Jeremy Lee Wallace, Effingham Co.

KENTUCKY: Katie Stinnett, Jessamine Co.

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by General Mills Foundation; Meylocks & Priebe Advertising, Inc.; and Seneca Foods Corporation

INDIANA: Christy Brancamp, Jac Cen Del

OHIO: Beth Detty, Miami Trace

SOUTH DAKOTA: Kristen Wallenstein, Harrisburg

TEXAS: Deidra Howell, Cotton Center

FORAGE PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Gehl Company and Novartis Seeds, Inc.

LOUISIANA: Jeremy Fruge, Hathaway

OKLAHOMA: Shane Stephens, Chickasha

TENNESSEE: Jon Klepper, Cherokee

WISCONSIN: Jason Specht, Pulaski

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by Reiman Publications

MINNESOTA: Shawn Linder, Battle Lake

MISSOURI: Johnathan Hesemann, Owensville

SOUTH DAKOTA: Dustin Preheim, Harrisburg

WISCONSIN: Tim Czarneski, Denmark

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by Chrysler Corporation Fund - Dodge Trucks; John Deere Consumer Products; and Stone Container Corporation

ALABAMA: Nathan Dewberry, Lineville

ILLINOIS: Jill Frank, Athens

TENNESSEE: Ralph Ramey, Midway

WISCONSIN: Brian Eckes, Marshfield

NURSERY OPERATIONS

Sponsored by Chrysler Corporation Fund - Dodge Trucks and Novartis Crop Protection

CALIFORNIA: Nathan Koop, Fresno-Pershing

FLORIDA: Larry Neal Jr., Williston

OHIO: Sara Schlueter, Botkins

WISCONSIN: Dan Osborn, Delavan Darien

OIL CROP PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by Novartis Seeds, Inc.; and United Soybean Board

IOWA: Tyler Farnham, Prairie Valley

KANSAS: Justin Newland, Neodesha

MINNESOTA: Grant Romberg, Sleepy Eye

WISCONSIN: Tim Daun, New Holstein

OIL CROP PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by AgrEvo; Asgrow Seed Company; and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

INDIANA: David Skiles, Carroll

KENTUCKY: Ryan Bivens, Spencer Co.

MISSOURI: Patrick Weisz, Norborne

SOUTH DAKOTA: Scott Peterson, McCook Central

Proficiency Awards

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Sponsored by **CHEVY TRUCKS; O.F. Mossberg and Sons, Inc.; and Schrade Cutlery**

CALIFORNIA: Sarah Rankin, Kern Valley

KANSAS: Trenton Uden, Arkansas City

INDIANA: Ryan Patterson, Orleans

WISCONSIN: Mike Harvey, Montello

POULTRY PRODUCTION

Sponsored by **Chore-Time Equipment Division of CTB Incorporated; Degussa; Schering-Plough Animal Health; and United Soybean Board**

IOWA: Brad Moline, Manson Northwest Webster

ILLINOIS: Ross Evan Swanson, Aledo

LOUISIANA: Amanda Ronnelle Greene, Saline

WISCONSIN: Steven Offer, Marshfield

SHEEP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by **Wrangler Division of V.F. Corporation; Resistol Hats; and the National FFA Foundation General Fund**

CONNECTICUT: Erin Sepe, Woodbury

MINNESOTA: Orlend Menze II, Minnewaska

NEVADA: Katie Klein, Silver Sage

WISCONSIN: Sarah Lien, Cambridge

SMALL ANIMAL CARE

Sponsored by **Novartis Animal Health U.S., Inc.**

OHIO: Jennifer Jameyson, Wellington

OREGON: Antanina Walkowiak, Newberg

TEXAS: Amy Church, Snyder

WISCONSIN: Jason Jansma, Randolph

SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by **American Cyanamid Company, Global Agricultural Products**

CALIFORNIA: Eric Harcksen, Atwater

INDIANA: Gail Joseph Phipps, Oak Hill

LOUISIANA: Nicholas Heinen, Hathaway

OHIO: Jon Miller, Liberty Union

SPECIALTY ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Sponsored by **Purina Mills, Inc.; C.T. Farm & Country; and Country General; and the National FFA General Fund**

CALIFORNIA: Melissa Gomes, Merced-Golden Valley

KANSAS: Cory Dieball, Manhattan

MINNESOTA: Andy Larson, Waconia

WISCONSIN: Chris Burma, Black Hawk

SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by **Elf Atochem North America, Inc.; Kubota Tractor Corporation; Na-Churs Plant Food Company; and Wilbur-Ellis Company**

IDAHO: Bret Garrard, Burley

TENNESSEE: Deidra DeShea Mundy, Powell Valley

TEXAS: Jason Hays, Dumas

WISCONSIN: Nicholas Brattlie, Cambridge

SWINE PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by **Pfizer Animal Health and Purina Mills, Inc.**

CALIFORNIA: Candace May, Orland

ILLINOIS: Debra Sue Korte, Massac County

MINNESOTA: Jason Smith, Fulda

WISCONSIN: Karlene Lindow, Marshfield

SWINE PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by **Pfizer Animal Health and Akey, Inc.**

IOWA: Corey Brink, G & G

MISSOURI: Donald Laut III, Fredericktown

NEBRASKA: Shane Barr, Tekamah-Herman

SOUTH DAKOTA: Nicholas Streff, McCook Central

TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by **The Scotts Company**

MINNESOTA: John Roberts, Battle Lake

NEBRASKA: Nick Thorson, Mead

OHIO: Adam Weitzel, Lucas

WISCONSIN: Travis Ambrose, Amherst

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by **Bass Pro Shops, Inc. and Buck Knives**

CALIFORNIA: Suzanne Baker, Atwater

NORTH CAROLINA: Bryan Redfern, Piedmont

OHIO: Courtney Miller, Pettisville

WISCONSIN: Nick Pantzlaff, Denmark

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by **Ducks Unlimited; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; National Rifle Association of America; and Cabela's**

IOWA: Brian Bolton, Creston

NEW MEXICO: Larrame Hammer, Artesia

TEXAS: Cody Cribbs, Snyder

UTAH: Jeremiah Hartmann,

Weber



Joshua Weaver of Ripon, Calif., rejoices after hearing his name called as the 1998 Agricultural Mechanical and Technical Systems Entrepreneur Proficiency Winner. Years of hard work finally paid off for the four national finalists in this area.

AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

Sponsored by American Cyanamid Company, Global Agricultural Products; Case Corporation; Farm Credit Services; and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Saturday morning's convention session was dedicated entirely to honoring the 1,934 young women and men who reached the pinnacle of FFA's degree program. The American FFA Degree is earned by less than one-half of one percent of all members, and the pride beaming from the recipients' faces, as well as their parents' and advisors', was well-deserved. The awardees each received a degree certificate and American FFA Key on stage, and were also recognized with a brunch following the session.

ALABAMA: Michael Bates, East Limestone; Selena Diane Bishop, Talladega City; Donald Carroll, Hartford; Chad Freeman Chaney, Sylvania; Peter Jacob Davis, Gaston; Wesley Farrow, Lineville; Casey Hatcher, Hartford; Jamie Shay Jones, Billingsley; Jonathan King, Russellville; Debbie Lynn Krull, Randolph-Roanoke; Michael Manning, Billingsley; Wesley Mitchell, East Lawrence; Duster Lee Pounders, Russellville; Robby Vinzant, Falkville; Steven Wrea Ziaja, Falkville

ARIZONA: Keith Cannon, Duncan; Marian Conrad, Flowing Wells; Adam Lee Daily, Yuma; Jake Dillard, Chino Valley; Michael Fitterer, Chino Valley; Daniel Foster, Flowing Wells; Marty Owens, Buckeye; Travis Rose, Safford; Andrea Rovey, Buckeye; Troy Skousen, Antelope; Eric Stevens, Payson; Brett Joseph Suma, Peoria; Marti Wade, San Simon; Lance White, Highland

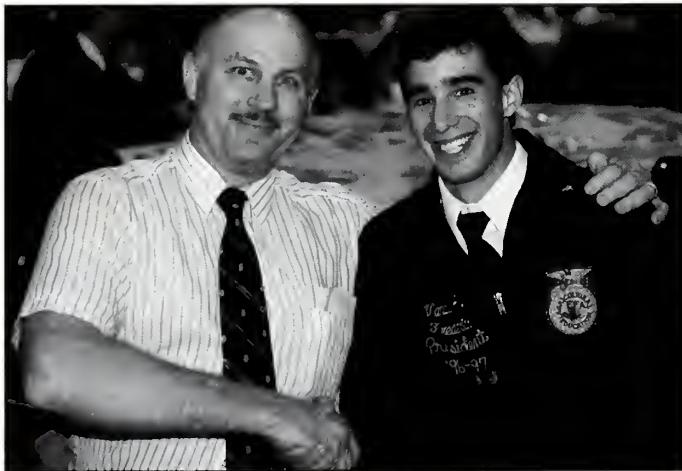
ARKANSAS: Annie Kay Clifton, Farmington; Russell Dewey, Mountain Home; Benjamin Jackson, Mansfield; Denise Moore, Lincoln; Cody Morris, Mountainburg; Jennifer Reynolds, Prairie Grove; Angela Marie Walker, St. Joe; Landon Paul Watkins, Valley Springs; Lance Wright, Quitman

CALIFORNIA Stacy Abercrombie, Kerman; Grant Ahlem, Hilmar; Michael Thomas Ake, Quartz Hill; Adelaide Maria Alamo, Gustine; Gabrielle Alexander, Delano; Jim Alves, Galt; Rebecca Alves, Tulare Union; Jared Anthony Amaral, Orestimba; Rebecca Amio, Jurupa Valley; Matthew Anderson, Galt;

Jonathan Andrews, Dos Palos; Sara Elise Araujo, Santa Maria-Righetti; Derek Azevedo, Gustine; Jennifer Marie Azevedo, Orestimba; John Azevedo, Hilmar; Kristi Baggs, Porterville; Erica Baker, Maxwell; Bryan Barnes, Surprise Valley; Gary Batimi, Arcata; Amy-Lynn Bauman, Las Plumas; Jessica Baxter, Merced Golden Valley; Spencer Beckstead, Atwater; Aaron Beene, LeGrand; Matt Beene, LeGrand; Ryan Bell, Gustine; Nikki Benedict, Yosemite; Duarte Manuel Bento, Escalon; Ryan Scott Bentz, Corning; Robert Bergman, Caruthers; Heather Berry, Corcoran; Matthew Jesse Bigelow, Sierra; Jennifer Borland, White-Carson; Lynelle Kathleen Bosworth, West Valley-Cottonwood; Stephanie Christine Brannan, Highland; Christine Brasil, Tulare

Western; Ryan Brenneman, Quartz Hill; Jason Brixey, Del Norte; Nicole Brush, North High-Bakersfield; Jim Buckley, Clarksburg-Delta; Katie Buckley, Clarksburg-Delta; Susan Bushong, Susanville; Beth Butler, Merced Golden Valley; Eric Warren Butler, Escalon; Michael Anthony Camara, Gustine; Kelli Christian, Santa Ynez; Ryan Cody, Hanford; Robert Cole, Corcoran; Brian Colman, Hollister-San Benito; Brian Combes, Sierra; Michael Costa, Monache; Chad Crivelli, Dos Palos; Katrina Curti, Tulare Western; Christina Day, Fresno Central; Vistin Degener, Tehachapi; Becky Lynn Deniz, Petaluma; Antonio DeOchoa, Corcoran; Ryan John DePaul, Surprise Valley; Tamara DeRose, Atascadero; Dominic Diaz, White-Carson; Dominic DiGrazia, Chico; Michael Dorkin Jr., Kern Valley; Mary Ellen Doster, Littlerock; Sky Dawn Douglass, Kern Valley; Jennifer Duncan, Jurupa Valley; Rollin Duty, Lemoore; Ryan Duty, Lemoore; Jacque Ellis, Tulare Union; Scott Ellsworth, Lemoore; Brandi Engelman, Fresno Unified; Audra Erquiaga, Surprise Valley; Ryan Estes, Chino; Jason Evanson, Santa Maria; Lisa Jeanne Farnelli, Escalon; Jose Manuel Fausto, Gonzales; Jason Feuerbach, Galt; Jacob Firner, Norco; Josh Flowers, Strathmore; Eric Fowlston, Kern Valley; Robert Fragulia, Atwater; Deborah Furtado, Turlock; Jason Gaitan, Kerman; Mario Garza Jr., Fresno Central; Shane Geist, Madera; Katie Godfrey, La Sierra; Craig Gong, Selma; Kristi Lee Graham, Apple Valley; Thomas Greci, Madera; Nate Green, Arbuckle; Robert Grissom,

Le Grand; Anthony Groppetti, Tranquillity; Christopher Grundt, Wasco; Roryann Gunnette, Jurupa Valley; Mark Habib, Fowler; Jennifer Halkum, Lemoore; Jimmy Hall, Tomales; Peter Hansen, Camarillo; Eric Harcksen, Atwater; John Hartwig, Fowler; Tommy Heather, Oakhurst-Yosemite; Misty Herman, Chowchilla; Jim Heuer, Strathmore; Jim Howe, Lemoore; Sarah Huey, Jurupa Valley; Shannon Huey, Jurupa Valley; Eric Huff, Hilmar; Caleb Hunter, Fowler; Karyn Irwin, Fallbrook; Richard Irwin, Westminster; Barbara Anne Jamrog, Atascadero; Teresa Jimenez, Morgan Hill; Danette Jones, Hanford; Rod Jorritsma, Hilmar; Joe Kalfsbeek, Williams; Kevin Kandarian, Fowler; Hilary Ann Kasbergen, Tulare Western; Rebecca Ann Kaupp, Gonzales; Ross Keith, North High-Bakersfield; Will Kelsey, Nevada Union; Sarah Killian, Denair; Nathaniel King, Selma; Kim Kleinman, North High-Bakersfield; Darrel Knight, Fowler; Amanda Koslow, Livermore; Summer Stewart Kostik, Morro Bay; Rick Kratt, Kern Valley; Brian Lawrence, Riverdale; Matthew Lawrence, Tulare Western; Jamie Lee, Merced Golden Valley; Tiffany Lerda, Tulare Union; Stephanie LeRoy, Romona; Marc Limas, Tulare Union; Matthew Limas, Tulare Union; Rosealee Livorsi, Morgan Hill-Live Oak; Leslie Ann Lopez, Selma; Michelle Lowe, Santa Rosa; Tammy Lowrey, Woodland; Jennifer Luiz, Elk Grove; Talia Maita, Elk Grove; Brandon Michael Mandala, Chowchilla; Rory Andrew Marks, Redwood; Marlon Marquez, Chino; Danna Martin, Jurupa Valley; Candace Michelle May, Orland; Alyssia Maze, Tulare Union; Jana McClelland, Petaluma; Jackie McComas, Quartz Hill; Melissa McGrath, Santa Rosa; Lacy McNab, Chino; Justin Mello-Fontes, Riverdale; Charlynn Angel Miller, Jurupa Valley; Sarah Miller, Petaluma; Melissa Moore, North High-Bakersfield; Heidi Mortensen, Redwood; Kimberly Munger, Sutter; Kate Nelson, Hilmar; Angelo Oliveira, Le Grand; Michael Oliveira, Hilmar; Michael Oliveira, Gustine; Myshel Lee Ortiz, Merced Golden Valley; Jake Parnell, Grass Valley-Bear River; Michael Pedreiro, Chowchilla; Julie Penfold, Kingsburg; Bob Pera, Turlock; Sena Pereira, Tulare Union; Joshua Pitigliano, Tulare Union; William Podoskoff, Kerman; Brianna Potter,



Bill Cottrell, advisor of the Memphis, Mo., FFA Chapter, and his student Vance Frederick share a moment after Frederick earns the American FFA Degree Saturday morning.



Proud parents Roger and Suzanne Beck of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, enjoy brunch with their son Thad, after congratulating him on earning the American FFA Degree.

Lemoore; Troy Potts, Corcoran; Stanley Rabbiosi, Chowchilla; John Randall, San Andreas-Calaveras; Sarah Elizabeth Rankin, Kern Valley; Keri Reeves, Hanford; Jennifer Renner, Fortuna; Melanie Reynolds, La Puente Valley ROP; Maggie Richardson, Salinas; Rochelle Richmond, Quartz Hill; Shannon Roberts, Jurupa Valley; Brandon Rodriguez, Madera; Reynaldo Rodriguez Jr., Delano; Matthew Romero, Corcoran; Cynthia Rose, Ernest Righetti; Robert Rowlett, Shandon; Rudy Saenz Jr., Corcoran; Jay Sampucci, Las Plumas; Adam Sanchez, Kingsburg; Christopher Robert Saunders, East Union; Geoffrey Schulz, Tulare Western; Kathy Sesock, Madera; Paulette Sesock, Madera; Rusty Lee Smith, Kern Valley; Janette Snow, North High-Bakersfield; Samantha Souza, Livingston; Megan Stehr, Galt; James Stoltie Jr., La Sierra; Sharlene Swaim, Norco; Desiree Taber, Jurupa Valley; Angel Tapia, Monache; Bryan Tassey, Atwater; Geoffrey Alan Tatom, Chowchilla; Joao Albino Tavares, Lemoore; Tanya Renee Tollefson, Lincoln; Salvador Torres Jr., Delano; Natalie Tuck, Ernest Righetti; Stacie Van Dyke, East Nicolaus; Omar Vasquez, Corcoran; Francisco Velazquez, Santa Maria-Righetti; Colleen Marie Walsh, Santa Maria-Righetti; Shannon Watts, Coalinga; Jeff Wegat, Galt; Melissa Williams, North High-Bakersfield; Jason Wills, Hesperia; Jeremy Wills, Hesperia; Scott Wonnell, Santa Maria; Michelle Wood, Corcoran; Jaclyn Worth, Lemoore; Cameron Wyman, Lancaster; Janine Xavier, Atwater; Heather Lynn Yeager, Kern Valley; Boorus Yim, Canoga Park; Anna Ferris Zeugschmidt, Orange Glen

COLORADO: Jerome Benish, Otis; Christopher Joel Bledsoe II, Flagler; Robert Bregar, Pueblo County; Matthew Glenn Brown, Woodlin; Nicole Burns, Holly; Don Edwards, Yuma; Jeremy Franz, Burlington; Shaun Anthony Gebauer, Otis; Christian Geu, Peetz; Nicole Hants, Pueblo County; Laura Marie Hardesty, Otis; Heather Hays, Burlington; Justin Homm, Burlington; Allen Karspeck, Hoehne; Kory Kesinger, Akron; J.R. Knaub, Menino; Joseph Lanier, Cortez; Justin Gene Morgan, Flagler; Andrew Nash, Pueblo County; Kelley Neuhold, Lamar; Tamara Norgren, Valley; George Reid II, Crowley County; Andrew Justin Skube, Pueblo County; Waylon Smith, Burlington; James Snyder, Cortez; Jason Stahn, Woodlin; Shane Dwight Stout, Meeker; Joe Stroh, Hotchkiss; Clint Wedel, Burlington; Shelby Wertz, McClave

CONNECTICUT: Meghan Bennett, Woodbury; Tammy Case, Northwestern Regional; Todd Hannan, Woodbury; Rick Hunyadi, Woodbury; John Lenart-Farrell, Woodbury; John Thomas Loffredo III, Lyman Hall; Raymond Molnar III, Storrs Regional; Francis Perzanowski, Lyman Hall; Erin Sepe, Woodbury; Cynthia Teixeira, Suffield; Michael Thompson, Storrs Regional; Eric Whiting, Housatonic Valley

DELAWARE: James Correll Jr., Smyrna; Jennifer Edwards, Smyrna; Clifford Lawson II, Sussex Central; Brandy Marsich, Glasgow; Rebecca Ann Voorhees, Milford; Kevin Warren, Smyrna; Scott Weis, Smyrna

FLORIDA: Jonathan Bishop, Lake Butler; Michael Butler, Lake Region; Robert Lee Cason Jr., Lake Butler; Melanie Church, Charlotte Sr.; Donald

Cone, Taylor; Amy Beth DeBolt, Saratosa; Weston Holland Downs, Lake Weir; Casey Ferguson, South Lake; Matthew Frierson, Dixie County Senior; Michelle Gamble, Suwannee; Lauren Haney, Saratosa Vo Ag; Mandy Higginbotham Driggers, Dixie County Senior; Jason Hutchins, Bradford Voc Tech; Farrah Lynn Johnson, Plant City Senior; Dustin Jones, Trenton; Hubert Jones, Bunnell; Lawrence King, New Smyrna Beach; Natalie Lamneck, Saratosa Vo Ag; Melinda Lewis, Charlotte Sr.; Carl Lightfoot, Pierson Taylor; Andrew Love, Lake Weir; David Luznar, New Smyrna Beach; Freddie Moore, South Lake; Mandy Moss, South Lake; Kevin Wayne Ogden, Durant Senior; Christina Payne, Suwannee; Mike Reynolds, Kathleen Sr.; Wade Rogers, Okeechobee Brahman; Eric Sherouse, Kathleen Sr.; Julie Elizabeth Singletary, Suwannee; Sharon Spann, Okeechobee Brahman; Andrew Straley, DeLand; Christopher Vitelli, Plant City; Brooke Ward, Dixie Sr.

GEORGIA: David Blackwell, Mitchell-Baker; Kyle Cone Braddy, Treutlen; Jimbo Crumley, Winder-Barrow; Stephen Dubberly, Bacon; Andy Ramay, Jeff Davis; Dennis Scarborough, Wayne County; Jason Snipes, Jeff Davis; Robert Spruill, Jackson; James Emory Tate Jr., Jeff Davis; Patrick Ward, Cook; William Weaver, Colquitt County; Kevin Wilcox, Jeff Davis; Kenny Lee Wishon, Gilmer County

IDAHO: Tristen Asay, Malad; Casey McKell Beck, Burley; Tom Bowen, Burley; Jeremy Randolph Brookshire, Burley; Melanie Burrie, Malad; Charlotte Christensen, Fruitland; Ellen Downing, New Plymouth; Christine Drage, Minico Co.; Jeff Eddington, Firth; Sadie Firth, Richfield; Brent Deuel Hillman, Firth; Mike Holland, Richfield; Janalyn Larsen, Madison; Laban Molsee, Deary; Shasta Orders, Snake River; Bryan Orthel, Filer; Elizabeth Marie Quesnell, Twin Falls; Cody Crockett Reid, Firth; Andrew Roland, Payette; Taylor Smith, West Jefferson; Amber Smyer, Declo; Jere Stewart, Kuna; Shane Williams, West Jefferson

ILLINOIS: Jessica Lynn Acton, Armstrong; Julie Adams, Stillman Valley; Robert Albrecht, Iroquois West; Matt Benning, Vandalia; Aaron Bertolino, Nokomis; Jeffrey Bethard, Morrisonville; Loren Alan Blount,

Morrisonville; David Bouton, Georgetown-Ridge Farm; Chad Broster, Mount Carmel; Elizabeth Kay Brown, Eldorado; Ryan Cantlin, Serena; Anthony Charles Conn, Iroquois West; Brian Joseph Cramsey, Liberty; Curtis Derrer, Eastland; Dianna Lynn Elliott, Liberty; Amy Marie Frericks, Liberty; Eric Friestad, Newark; Keith Funderburk, Morrisonville; Tina Hall, Indian Creek; Allen Hardy, Stillman Valley; Grant Heatherwick, Peotone; Jason Roger Hubele, Carmi; Aaron Janssen, Nokomis; Dianna Johnson, Alexis; Heather Johnson, Northwestern Jr./Sr.; Willis Kelsey, Mount Carmel; Darrell Kroeschel Jr., Southwestern; Jeremy Krug, Serena; Stephen Leavell, Jacksonville; Bryan Maroot, Greenville; Lori McEvers, Bluffs; Aaron McNeil, Valmeyer; Amy Meyer, Manteno; Carrie Muehling, Cissna Park; Breanne Nelson, Manteno; Trent Norris, Taylorville; Gary Ochs, Olney; Anthony Oesch, West Richland; Pat Olson, Alexis; Jeffrey Paullin, Blue Ridge; Jamie Reichert, Liberty; Lindi Stremsterfer, A-C Central; Seth Swenson, Newark; Martin Szudarski, Peotone; William VanWassenhove, Herscher; Matthew Dale Vortman, Bluffs; Rebecca Wadlow, Jerseyville; Matthew Wells, Cisne; Jessica Wernsing, Lincolnwood; Matthew Wiggins, Eldorado; Heidi Wild, Waterloo; Julie Ann Zimmerman, Eureka

INDIANA: Devin Bell, Clinton Prairie; David Betz, Forest Park; Erin Bluemke, Rossville; Joseph Robert Bradbury, Seeger Memorial; Matthew Alan Brinkman, Woodlan; Bradley Scott Burbrink, Seymour; Mike Caffee, South Adams; Stephanie Lynne Carter, Clinton Central; Jai Cave, Shenandoah; Chad Cooper, Owen Valley; Diana Marie Coty, Tri-County; Jeremy Crum, Rossville; Sandy Dougan, North Posey; Cory Duncan Dryden, North Harrison; Tyler Fredenburg, Shenandoah; Andrew Getz, Tri-County; Michael Gochenour, Rossville; Jamie Elizabeth Grimm, West Noble; Clint Hardin, Hagerstown; Joseph Hartman, Dekalb; Amy Hastings, North Daviess; Dana Jo Hensler, Tri-County; John Hoeing, South Decatur; Chad Johnston, Western; Kraig Jones, Benton Central; Joseph Kelsay, Whiteland; Lori Kohlhagen, Rensselar; Gunther Kreps, Wawasee; Ryan Roger Longyear, East Noble; Andrew James Magner, Heritage; Zeb Margison,

American FFA Degree

Shenandoah; Kurt Marvel, North Posey; Thomas Mellencamp, Seymour; Joshua Merrill, Western Boone; Brent Michael, Rossville; Ryan Mills, Tri-County; James Mitchell, Western Boone; Jessica Nicholas, Hagerstown; Gabe Nobbe, Connersville; Summer Noether, Rossville; Aaron Oliver, Columbia City; Celeste Patrick, Rossville; Jacob Peden, North Manchester; Benjamin Peetz, Jac-Cen-Del; Ramblin Rose, Scottsburg; Lora Salkeld, Scottsburg; Matthew Schenk, North Posey; Travis Scherer, Benton Central; Christy Shelburne, Heritage; Brad Shelton, Orleans; James Sturgeon, Hagerstown; Ryan Vaught, Southmont; Adam Warren, Wawasee; Robert Wehmer, North Posey; Nancy Williams, Fountain Central; Jeffrey Wolheter, Prairie Heights
IOWA: Leah Blackford, Linn-Mar; Luke Brown, Hawkeye; Karna Jo Burzlaff, Calamus-Wheatland; Craig Andrew Christensen, Riceville; Travis Cook, Montezuma; Kevin Donovan, Cascade; Matthew Eddy, Osceola Big Chief; Jeff Ellis, West Liberty; Joshua Engelbrecht, Starmont; Troy Fischer, Central; Brent Flander, Montezuma; Luke Grantz, Northeast; Mark Hayes, Starmont; Shelly Hesse, Wapsie Valley; Brent Daniel Hinz, Charles City; Jason Dennis Hosek, North Tama County; Bill Hughes, Red Oak; Nathan Johnson, Red Oak; Scott Johnson, G & G; Wade Kampen, Hawkeye; Brian Alan Krug, Laporte-Dysart; Eli Lawrence, Monticello; Brent Leistikow, Wapsie Valley; Warren Livingston, Nodaway Valley; Clinton Loghry, Osceola Big Chief; Brandon Maas, Williamsburg; Mark Malloy, Williamsburg; Ryan Malloy, Williamsburg; Andrew Merfeld,

Nashua-Plainfield; Jennifer Lorene Merrill, Anamosa; Jody Merrill, Anamosa; Nathan Nickle, Mount Ayr; Keith Pietig, Carroll Area; Carla Rogis, Central; Jason Sanders, Vinton; Ryan Schmidt, Alta Aurelia; Lucian Schmitt, Charles City; Dean Scott, Oskaloosa; Alex Smith, Red Oak; Jess Te Slaa, West Lyon; Mike Ter Wee, West Lyon; Andrew Ray Tygrett, Wilton; Thomas Uhlenhopp, Sumner; Nicholas Vickers, Central; Micah Weber, Rockwell-Sheffield; Luke Wells, Guthrie Center; Noah Wendt, West Delaware; Matthew Wenger, Wapsie Valley; Grant Wesson, Newton; Robin Wink, Cascade KANSAS: Josh Abeldt, Chapman; Emily Belton, Centre; Jeremiah Burbach, WaKeeney; Wendee Dawn Burch, Holcomb; Ryan Joe Carter, Altoona; Justin Dalke, Moundridge-Hesston; Timothy Deines, Wakeeney; Cory Epler, Columbus; Daniel Frohberg, Valley Heights; Suzanne Goering, Moundridge-Hesston; Kara Grimm, Sabetha; Steven Hall, Chapman; Benjamin Hopper, Riley County; Michael Kramer, Iola; Marie Pope, Blue Valley; Kerry Priest, Sabetha; Wade Reh, Inman; Jennifer Kay Ryan, South Haven; Jill Stafford, Hill City; Ty Theurer, Wellington; Sara Thorsell, Altoona; Abra Ungeheuer, Jayhawk-Linn; Sara Young, Erie

KENTUCKY: Hillary Barker, Fleming County; Wesley Ryan Belt, Crittenden County; Donnie Berry, Fleming County; Amanda Beth Brasher, Livingston Central; William Brown, Logan County; Patrick Carlisle, Webster County; William Carter, Knox Central; Barry Keith Conley, Pendleton County; Melissa Cox,

Fulton County; Derrick Craddock, Fulton County; Karen Cundiff, Lee County; Joshua Detre, LaRue County; Joshua Druen, Hart County; Patrick Durham, LaRue County; Andrew Falwell, Calloway County; Marvin Gaston, Logan County; Jessica Glass, Scott County; Charlie Hayden, Apollo; Joshua Hill, LaRue County; James Hines, LaRue County; Gene Hodskins, Apollo; Todd Holbrook, Wolfe County; Brian Jackson, Bourbon County; Keith Jolly, Central Hardin; Robert Jordan, Jessamine County; Alissa Little, Scott County; Matthew London, Barren County; Jason Magan, Ohio County; Christi Marksbury, Spencer County; Joseph Marshall, Fleming County; Steve McIntosh, Scott County; Raven Nichole McMae, Madison Central; Nicholas Landon Murphy, Christian County; James Christopher Newkirk, Edmonson County; Anthony Brian Osterman, Lincoln County; Bradley Pettit, Fleming County; Kenneth Pollett, Anderson County; Chris Portwood, Woodford County; John Ruber, Scott County; Steven Rudy, Ballard Memorial; Jason Sadler, LaRue County; Joseph Sanders, Edmonson County; Andy Shemwell, Todd Central; James Nathaniel Simpson II, Anderson County; Eddie Tabor, Apollo; Adrian Kent Walters, Scott County; Nathan Dwight Waters, Lyon County; Michael Williams, Fulton County; Cheston Wayne Wilson, Casey County; Sarah Elizabeth Younger, Scott County

LOUISIANA: Brandon Damian Bollich,

Oak Grove; Louis Joseph Lirette,

Central Lafourche; Samuel Lucius,

Florien

MAINE: Linette Buzzia, Presque Isle;

Erin DeLong, Presque Isle

MARYLAND: Leah Broadwater,

Oakland; Kristy Geisbert, Frederick;

Eric Eugene Martin, Catoctin; Amy Mathews, Walkersville; Denny Ogg,

Frederick; Brian Roy Schnebly, Clear Spring; Mark Allen Schnebly, Clear Spring

MICHIGAN: Gregory Achatz, Hillman;

Renae Anway, Webberville; Ben Baxter, St. Louis; Torey Birchmeier,

New Lothrop; Andrea Boughton,

Marshall; Troy Bowman, Caledonia;

Aaron Brandenburg, Maple Valley;

Jennifer Brown, Laingsburg; Joseph Brugger, Sand Creek; David Dermyer,

Jackson Area Career Center; Jason Eicher, Corunna; Justin Faber, Ubley;

Kyle Fiebig, Unionville Sebewaing Area; Jessica Godley, Breckenridge; Shari Grieser, Lowell; Matthew Hillard, Sand Creek; Brian Kiesling, Perry; Mary Beth Kline, Alpena; Candice Kuchar, Corunna; Amanda Kurney, Corunna; Nicholas Ladd, Waldron; Lana Lewis, Breckenridge; Jason Manke, Homer; Jeffery Mausolf, Ubly; Jeremy Milarch, Benzie Central; Amanda Moore, Alma; Kerry Nugent, Lowell; Matthew Palmer, St. Louis; Christina Marie Powell, Webberville; Brian Preston, Branch Area Career Center; Tim Roggenbuck, Harbor Beach; Jack Schut, Hopkins; Melissa Sue Scully, Beal City; Jeremy Sharrard, Sanilac; Tracy Slieff, Durand; Sarah Smuts, Charlotte; John Stoeckle, Unionville-Sebewaing; Eric Streeter, Byron; Nick Thompson, Maple Valley; Greg VanKlompenberg, Hopkins; Joseph Walter, Byron; Kelly Wizner, Laingsburg

MINNESOTA: Amanda Aakre, Hawley; Jason Anderson, Blue Earth; Tarrah Jo Arduser, Madelia; Paul Arndorfer, Leroy-Ostrander; Shane Becker, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; Betsy Bianchi, New Ulm; Scott Brogan, St. Charles; James Burns, Watertown-Mayer; Clinton Butler, Blue Earth; Cory Christensen, Westbrook; Jeffrey Thomas Collins, Alexandria; Brett Decker, St. Charles; Jason Dehne, Lac Qui Parle Valley; Lisa Detloff, Staples/Motley; Andrew James Forsell, MacCray-KMS; Jill Guggisberg, GFW Pioneer Express; Paul Haberman, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; Bonnie Haehnel, Staples-Motley; Pat Hamann, Lac Qui Parle Valley; Kirstin Hansen, Montevideo; Kami Jo Hastad, Lac Qui Parle Valley; SueAnn Marie Hemp, Greenbush; Andrea Hesebeck Carlson, Jackson; Scott Hoberg, Benson; Stephanie Hoff, Norman County West; Bradley Johnson, Leroy-Ostrander; Laura Ann Klein, Kimball; Alan Klimek, Alexandria; Jason Koopman, Montevideo; Tony Kornder, Belle Plaine; Joe Kozolek, United South Central; Brian Krohnfeldt, Alexandria; Matt Larsen, Belle Plaine; Aaron Laumann, Hayfield; Chad Lawrence, Blue Earth; Andrew Mark, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; Adam McCoy, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; Sara Meyer, Perham; Cindy Mulert, Owatonna; Sarah Olson, Blue Earth; Paul Overman, Fulda; Robert Parke, Forest Lake; Elizabeth Pasch, Cannon Falls; Michael Loren Patterson,



Brandon Van Atta had his wife Jill's support as he received the American FFA Degree Saturday morning. The couple is from Ontario, Ore.

American FFA Degree

Kenyon Wamaningo; Nicholas Paulsrud, Norman County West; Brad Pederson, Montevideo; Aaron Peter, Blue Earth; Matthew Radil, Alexandria; John Roberts, Battle Lake; Laura Rohrer, Leroy-Ostrander; Jason Rozeboom, Hills-Beaver Creek; Tom Rude, Zumbrota-Mazeppa; Ryan Sachariason, Montevideo; Craig Richard Schaufler, Leroy-Ostrander; Leah Rae Schliep, Zumbrota-Mazeppa; Jason Schroeder, New Ulm; Tifany Shellenbarger, Montevideo; Ted Simon, Blue Earth; Ryan Lee Steele, Alden-Conger; Gary Stenzel, United South Central; Theodore Stenzel, United South Central; Matthew Thome, Southland; Brian Thoof, Marshall; Aaron Tibbets, Hawley; Theodore Tibbets, Hawley; David Westlund, Watertown-Mayer; Darren Winfield, LeRoy-Ostrander;



Kristi Coones' FFA career culminated in earning her American FFA Degree Saturday, a moment she was able to share with her parents, Todd and Cheryl. The family is from Terra Bella, Calif.

Jennifer Wingert, Lanesboro; Joel Zinnel, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster

MISSISSIPPI: Richard Buckhaults, South Jones; Adam Coker, Northeast Jones; Kevin Fortenberry, West Marion; Markell Gingrich, Seminary; Daniel Graham, West Marion; Mandy Harvey, Lawrence County; Jeffery Hedgepeth, Lawrence County; Kevin Martin, Purvis; Shane Mason, Lawrence County; Misty Maxwell, Lawrence County; Billie-Jo LaShae McDonald, Northeast Jones; Derwin Morgan, Lawrence County; Jason Morris, South Panola; Margaret Ormon, Hickory Flat; Mary Allison Ormon, Hickory Flat; Dennis Porter Jr., Bassfield

MISSOURI: Heather Adams, Crest Ridge; Stan Adler, Eldorado Springs; Duster Allgood, McDonald County; Tonya Sue (Bradley) Andujo, Memphis; Adam Baker, Memphis; James Baker, Memphis; Tim Banze, Warrenton; Michael Joseph Bax, Eldon; Jennie Bedsworth, New Bloomfield; Marc Bell, Rich Hill; Travis Belt, North Shelby; Caleb Berkstresser, Forsyth; Cheri Bertsch, Salisbury; Joe Bethel, McDonald County; Nathan Binder, Macon; Miranda Blevins, Aurora; Christopher Bowles, North Central Area Vo-Tech; Reid Boyer, Maysville R-1; Cassie Brackenridge, Eldorado Springs; Trent Brackenridge, Eldorado Springs; Paul Brandt, Linn; Allen Bridges, Sweet Springs; Ryan Britt, Salisbury; Derek Brocksmith, Monroe City R-1; Ryan Brooks, Columbia; Adam Brown,

East Newton; Jeremy Glenn Eagan, North Shelby; Cheston Glenwood Easter, Princeton; Jessica Farris, Ashland; Kelly Findley, North Central Area Vo-Tech; Kenny Fort, Wellsville-Middletown; Emily Raegan Fox, Cabool; Brandon Frank, Eldon; Vance Henry Frederick, Memphis; John Fritsche, Perryville; Chad Fuemmeler, Glasgow; Amber Gall, Pierce City; Bryan Gegg, Ste. Genevieve; Ryan Gegg, Ste. Genevieve; Brent Gerling, Lathrop; Lyndsey Gibson, Stet; Meghan Gideon, McDonald County; Erin Glascock, Ashland; David Glenn, Greenfield; Leticia Goodpasture, Vandalia-Farber R-1; Matt Graham, Northwest Technical School; Nicole Gray, Cameron; Sally Ann Greene, Willard; Ethan Griffin, Trenton; Kristy Grimm, Aurora; Darren Hall, Clark County R-1; Janieca Hancock, Bolivar; Tony Hancock, Houston; Jason Hankins, Buffalo; Kody Harper, McDonald County; Lance Andrew Healy, North Shelby; John Heiman, Russellville; Kristen Hendricks, Buffalo; Moraima Hernandez, Magnet East; Brian Heuring, Kelly; Heather Hoffmeister, Hermann; Stephen Holly, McDonald County R-1; Jamie Lorraine Howard, Fatima; Eric Hunt, Worth County; Kory James, Versailles; Jeffrey Kassel, Perryville; Tracy Lee Kimbler, Union; Ryan Kramme, St. Clair; Terri Kurrelmeyer, Owensville; Loretta Lake, Palmyra; Patrick LaShell, Buffalo; Travis Lathrop, Nevada; Matt Laufer, Aurora; Leon Legleiter, Nevada; Jim Lepper, Eldon; Nicholas Scott Lindsay, Clopton; Brian Anthony Link, Brunswick; Laura Linville, Northwest Technical School; Ryan Lockridge, Gallatin; Christine Marie Long, Vandalia-Farber R-1; Kevin Looten, Eldon; Joey Lysinger, Holden; Charles Henry Manson, Brunswick; Jill McConnell, Republic; Jamie Mease, Galena; Robert Meyer, Clopton; Brent Micke, Humansville; Jared Milligan, Tipton; Jerad Minnick, Chillicothe; Rick Moenkhoff, Mount Vernon; Jamie Lee Moffett, Marionville; Corey Moore, Vandalia-Farber R-1; John Mullin, Pleasant Hill R-III; Matthew Mullins, Ste. Genevieve; Justin Nelson, Mountain Grove; Mindy O'Brien, McDonald County; Daniel O'Dell, Tina Avalon; Jason Ostermeyer, Holden; Jessica Pace, Milan; Philip Padget, Memphis; Derek Page, Mount Vernon; Bradley Peel, Slater; Richie Pond, Slater; Dawn Proctor, Willard; Jamie Suzanne Proffitt, Orrick; Casey Pyle, Golden City; Susannah Rahmlmann, Fredericktown; Phillip Ray, Trenton; Amber Redford, Chillicothe; Phillip Rhoades, Putnam County R-1; Kevin Rhodes, Linn County R-1; Matthew Paul Richardson, Brunswick; John Ridder, Washington; Jay Roderick, Halfway; Curt Rodgers, Montgomery County R-2; Nathan Rogers, Princeton; Eric Roller, Wheaton; Jeanette Rose, Marionville; Tara Rubison, South Shelby; Greg Schad, Versailles; Jeff Schneider, Warrenton; Jeremy Schneider, Warrenton; Marty Schneider, Warrenton; Tracy Schneider, Hermann; Bryan Herbert Schoenthal, Jamestown; Andrea Schweizer, Savannah; Dan Shepard, North Callaway; James Sherwood, Clark County R-1; Mark Shore, Holden; Steve Shramek, Wellsville-Middletown; Fredrech Smiley, Versailles; Leda Smith, Chillicothe; Natalie Spencer, Holden; James Spray, Memphis; Connie Staley, King City; Wendell Stegner, Holden; Mike Stephens, McDonald County R-1; Angelina Strafaci, Purdy; Nathan Strobel, Russellville; Curtis Stundebeck, Salisbury; Sheila Sukovaty, Bolivar; Marshall Ray Swafford, Savannah; Matthew Don Swan, Brunswick; Justin Bryce Swindler, Braymer; Traci Marie Temmen, Belle; Kimberley Thornhill, Mountain Grove; Jason Thurnau, Mound City; Justin Tinney, Cole Camp; Jason Todd, Wellsville-Middletown; Travis Glen Toombs, Fair Play; Darrin Trobough, Warrensburg; Matthew Lee Trussell, Tina Avalon; Barry Turner, Smithville; Jeff Vossler, Salisbury; Bryan Wagner, Sarcoxie; Russell Wagner, Sarcoxie; Travis Lee Wait, Bronaugh; Chad Wallace, Van-Far; Angela Webery, Ste. Genevieve; Matt Webery, Eldon; Carrie Whistance, Halfway; Caren Ann Whitehead, Wellsville-Middletown; Will Williams, Monroe City R-1; Elizabeth Arlene Willoughby, Sarcoxie; Kenna Wilmes, Northwest Technical School; Jeremy Wilson, Marionville; Nathan Winklepleck, Couch; Jarod Womack, Clark County R-1; Courtney Wooderson, North Central Area Vo-Tech; Brian Yarbrough, Palmyra; Jonie Lea Zeigenbein, Richland; Ann Zimmerschied, Sweet Springs

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MONTANA: Ryan Allen, Denton; Wendy Bengochea, Culbertson; Dana Berwick, Bainville; Hugh Braaten, Flathead; C. R. Eisenzimer, Cascade; Jeff Hammel, Carter; Heather Malcolm, Park; Jenny Mansir, Flathead; Jeffery Miller, Judith Gap; Jeff Morgan, Shields Valley; Gigi Parsons, Cascade; John Russell Peterson, Shields Valley; Misti Pilster, Carter County; Katie Marie Rein, Big Timber; Errol Rice, Denton; Michelle Wagner, Stevensville

NEBRASKA: Rebecca Ann Alder, Ravenna; Chris Arnold, Valentine; Jennifer Lynn Auten, Blue Hill; Matt Bailey, Schuyler; Julie Barr, Ord; Adam Beel, Ainsworth; Michael Brandert, Logan View; Christina Bristol, Seward; Cameron Wade Brumbaugh, Hampton; Kyle Bruss, Palmyra; Brad Campbell, Ravenna; Rob Chatt, Tekamah-Herman; Jeffrey Ray Chrisman, Franklin; Travis Cook, Kimball; Jeffrey Alan Coulter, Ravenna; Brooque Deterding, Cambridge; Ellen Diedrichsen, Scribner-Snyder; Christopher Alan Driewer, Hampton; Luke Ediger, Henderson; Roy George Elder, Imperial; Bradley Epp, Henderson; Aaron Feltly, Holdrege; Jeremy Ferguson, Logan View; David Franzen, Leigh; Chris Friedel, West Holt; Evan Friesen, Henderson; Jeff Graham, Randolph; John Hanson, Mead; Jaci Lee Harders, Centura; Kevin Harsch, Cambridge; Joshua Heitman, Superior; Jay Dee Janzen, Henderson; Kevin Janzen, Henderson; Rodney Jedlicka, Schuyler; Jami Jelken, Franklin; Clint Johnson, Imperial; Lanette Johnson, Cambridge; Sheila Johnson, Spencer-Naper; Matt Karo, West Holt; Michaela Kibbon, Hampton; Tye Kjeldgaard, Tekamah-Herman; Robbie Kolar, Ord; Sara Koperski, Centura; Christopher Kort, Blue Hill; Laura Kriete, Logan View; Jason Kuhlmann, Superior; Jim Lambert, Sioux County; Corey Lamont, Tekamah-Herman; Rachel Latter, Wilcox; Gailen McGill, Newman Grove; Marc McGill, Newman Grove; Amy Messing, Schuyler; Chris Meyer, Scribner-Snyder; Emily Nicole Mitchell, Norris; Amy Mollhoff, Cambridge; Eric Montgomery, Palmyra; Jason Moudry, Ord; Chad Garrett Nickels, Hampton; Mark Nunnenkamp, Henderson; Julie Ann Nuss, Sutton; Patrick O'Neill,

Northwest; Anthony Ogorzolka, Republican Valley; Curtis Olsen, Grant; Samantha Ondracek, North Bend; Cory Osten, Lakeview; Dalyce Ott, Wauneta; Douglas Ott, Henderson; Lee Panko, Tekamah-Herman; Joshua John Peters, Hampton; Tana Phifer, Ansley; Elizabeth Anne Rager, Ravenna; Rob Rahmig, Scottsbluff; Matt Rasmussen, Mead; Sara Rasmussen, Logan View; Kristen Ratzlaff, Henderson; Crystal Lynn Ravenscroft, Valentine; Justin Ray, Superior; Kelly Reineke, Ord; Keri Reiss, Wilcox; Reba Renner, North Bend; Scott Rickert, Hampton; Jon Rolf, Albion; Randy Rosenthal, Fairbury; Shad Schellenberg, Scribner-Snyder; Grant Schmidt, Henderson; Cam Schoneberg, Sutton;

Fairbury; Lannin Zoltenko, Superior
NEVADA: Jeremy Bledsoe, Silver Sage; Kathi Buzzetti, Silver Sage; Lizbeth Geary, Carson Valley; Jaime Hustace, Smith Valley; Katie Klein, Silver Sage; Melissa Phillips, Silver Sage; Salli Sarman, Silver Sage

NEW JERSEY: Bernard Kelly, Phillipsburg; Paulette Zsófi Nyiri, Phillipsburg

NEW MEXICO: Deborah Bond, Carrizozo; Damon Brown, Des Moines; Joe Burchett, Capitan; Clint Hughes, Carlsbad; Jennie James, Logan; Clinton Brett McDowell, Clayton; Janice Deason Naranjo, Clayton; Andy Smith, Artesia; Joseph Warren, Los Lunas
NEW YORK: Amy Barkley, Tri-Valley Central; Jacob Burns, Madison; Sarah

Barrett Hawkins, South Lenoir; Patrick Hege, North Davidson; Hollie Kovacs, Currituck; Corbit Lackey, Eastern Randolph; Chris Lamb, Chatham Central; Sara Jean Lane, Bartlett Yancey; Reuben Brooks Ledbetter, North Iredell; James Long, Eastern Randolph; Donnie Massey, Madison; Jennifer Reynolds, Bartlett Yancey; Cynthia Self, Madison; Paul Shue, Eastern Randolph; Nathan Sink, North Davidson; April Stuart, Currituck; Penny Threadgill, Eastern Randolph; Megan Wedington, South Rowan; Joseph Wilson, Madison

NORTH DAKOTA: Jessica Anderson, Rugby; Cory Andvik, Kindred; David Boelke, Wahpeton; Craig Danielson, Rolette; Russell Delzer, Garrison; Jed DeWitz, Tappen; Angie Dick, Lisbon; Chad Duchscher, Rugby; Rhonda Graff, Berthold; Kirk Hartel, Watford City; Drew Haugland, Divide County; Craig Kleven, Maddock; James Lund, Enderlin; John Lund, Enderlin; Ben Mack, Rugby; Cami Marshall, Towner; Aaron Nelson, Powers Lake; Jason Odenbach, Carrington; Tim Oehlke, Wahpeton; Aaron Pelton, Watford City; Ken Lee Rensch, Garrison; Jason Ryum, Napoleon; Shaun Schroeder, Westhope Newburg; Wendy Schroeder, Carrington; Melissa Ann Schumacher, Mandan; Charlie Sorenson, Stanley; Ryan Sundberg, Divide County; Matthew Swenson, Kindred; Judd Syverson, Wahpeton; Nicholas Weber, Lisbon; Jason Wolf, Napoleon; Tina Yanish, Minot

OHIO: Jeffery Adams, Fairbanks; Susan Anthony, Madison Plains; Mike Bailey, Eastern Brown; Brady Baker, United; Michael Baker, Wellington; Robbi Ballah, Madison Plains; Karen Jean Barnes, National Trail; Thaddeus Beck, Mt. Gilead; Aaron Patrick Bergman, Versailles; John David Bertschy, River View; Dena Bland, Indian Valley; Benjamin Blosser, Amanda-Clear Creek; Adam Boerger, Fairbanks; Anneka Bohannon, Hillsboro; Shane Branham, Teays Valley; Charles Bratton, Mowrystown; Traci Lee Brenly, West Holmes; Kristy Brewer, Ansonia; Erin Brooks, Northwestern-Wayne; Ben Burns, Fairbanks; Eric Burns, Fairbanks; Travis Burris, Buckeye Trail; Jaime Burton, Madison Plains; Kevin Castanien, Upper Sandusky; Jason Claypool, Lancaster; Adam Coblenz, Wilmington; Mindy Cocklin,



Bryan Yim of Northridge, Calif., celebrates his American FFA Degree with his brother Boorus and mother Yeung over brunch after Saturday morning.

Matthew Schram, Conestoga; Cecil Shriner, Wilcox; Jessica Ann Shelburn, Nelson; Robert Smith, Kimball; Donald Sousek, Prague; Gina Splattstoesser, Franklin; Matthew Standage, Ravenna; Mark Steinhausen, Norris; Shane Steinhoff, Scribner-Snyder; Cindy Stockamp, Scribner-Snyder; Justin Stuart, Nebraska City; Chris Tanner, Platte Valley; Kirk Joseph Utecht, Superior; Dustin Vakiner, Scribner-Snyder; Joshua Scott Vogel, Norfolk; Marty Von Seggern, Scribner-Snyder; Kari Wagner, Creighton; Jill Stephanie Walhoski, Ord; Travis Mark Walker, Norfolk; Jason Weiss, Imperial; David Welte, Tekamah-Herman; Kristy Wiggans, Fairbury; Shawn Wilcox, Wisner-Pilger; Julie Wilson, Wauneta; Trevor Wragge, Logan View; Brian Wray, Ord; Marla Zabokrtsky,

Burt, Madison; Heather Drape, Madison; Jonathan Gillette, South Lewis; Robert Hebert, Vernon-Verona-Sherrill; Melissa Helmke, Madison; Jeremy Kropp, Greenville; Katie Miles, Madison; Douglas Palmer Jr., Greenville; Rebecca Smith, Cobleskill-Richmondville; Lori Marie Staib, Chateaugay; Jaclyn Mary Stewart, Hartford; Joshua Willson, Madison; Lucius Willson, Vernon-Verona-Sherrill

NORTH CAROLINA: David Barker, Eastern Randolph; Robert Blackard Jr., Bartlett Yancey; Thomas Richard Casey, Currituck; Jonathan Lee Compton, Bartlett Yancey; Andrew Corriher, South Rowan; Christopher Cox, Starmount; Franklin Finney, South Rowan; David Greer, South Lenoir; Michael Hall, Union; William

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Wilmington; Sam Coil Jr., Madison Plains; Lisa Copeland, Hillsboro; Mark Corrington, Preble Shawnee; Jason Merle Cox, Crestview; Thomas Crawford, River Valley; Gregory Dague, Northwestern-Wayne; Zachary Dauch, Bellevue; Kurt Thomas Dean, Miami Trace; Jerry Denehy, Wilmington; T. J. Denes, Black River; Beth Ann Detty, Miami Trace; Tyler Eric Dickerhoof, Hillsdale; Matt Dietrich, New Bremen; Adam Downs, Shelby; Matt Dugan, East Knox; Zachary Swope Dunlap, Westfall; Nate Ehman, Teays Valley; Mark Ewald, Old Fort; Todd Faust, Lynchburg-Clay; Jerrod Ferguson, River Valley; Ben Frobese, Eastwood; Brian Frombaugh, Wellington; Natalie Geer, East Clinton; Brian Good, Bellevue; Jimmy Grooms, Cardington; Simon Gundy, Otsego; Bryan Guspyt, Indian Valley; Evan Hahn, Wynford; John Hamilton, Lynchburg-Clay; Steve Harder, Oak Harbor; Jesse Hefner, Wayne Trace; Chrissy Henricks, Evergreen; Ron Henry, Versailles; David Hissong, Greenville; Michael Holland, Kenton; Sue Hoop, Buckeye Trail; Jack Huelskamp, Upper Valley; Jackie Hunter, Madison Plains; Jason Hurt, Bowling Green; Jennifer Jameyson, Wellington; Jeremiah Johnson, Wayne Co. Schools Career Ctr; Terry Jolliff, Hardin Northern; Katelin Kale, Elmwood; Darrin Karcher, Wynford; James Kearns, Ridgemont; Ben Kelbley, Hopewell-Loudon; Josh Kelly, Wilmington; Megan Kelly, Miami Trace; Carolee King, Alexander; Joy King, Alexander; Cody Kirkpatrick, Miami Trace; Elizabeth Knapke, Talawanda; Jared Knicely, John Glenn; Jacob Koch, Lakeland; Bob Koehler, Fairfield Union; Clint Kremer, Fort Recovery; Michael Lantz, Shelby; Brandon Lawwill, Western Brown; Dennis Ledford, Wilmington; Gregory Scott Leininger, Delta; Curtis Lichtensteiger, Crestview (Convoy); Scott Linke, Hardin Northern; Michelle Long, Talawanda; Daniel Lyden, Benjamin Logan; Robert Malone Jr., Edison; Jeff Mason, Anthony Wayne; Jenny Maurice, Graham; Heather Meranda, Georgetown; Victor Meyer, Elmwood; Todd Michaels, Bellevue; Brent Miller, Eastwood; Ryan Mobley, East Clinton; Amy Mole, Northwestern-Wayne; Scott Alan Morrison, Hardin

Northern; Holly Myers, Clermont Northeastern; Chris Nicol, Fairbanks; Matthew O'Diam, Twin Valley; Gregory Oliver, Twin Valley; Jason Oman, Cory-Rawson; Ehret Pahl, Carey; Brian Pettit, Miami Trace; Barry Phillips, East Knox; Krista Philpot, Versailles; Anna Pickworth, Keystone; Martha Powers, Fairbanks; Steve Priest, Licking Valley; Matt Pullins, Triad; Jay Purvis, Mowrytown; David Rank, Lincolnview; Daniel Raubenolt, Hillsdale; Nicholas Rausch, Fairbanks; Kenneth Reber, Plymouth; David Reitzel III, Edon; David Roush, Racine Southern; Kevin Ruhl, Northmore; Brandi Sailor, Upper Valley; Shannon Saylor, Benjamin Logan; Jessica Sayre, Racine-Southern; Aaron Scammahorn, Franklin Monroe; Barry Scherer, Ridgewood; Debra Kay Schuck, Ashland; Michael Schuhart, Tri-Valley; Chad Seaman, East Clinton; Joseph Shafer, Sheridan North; Josephine Kathryn Shafer, Hillsdale; Steve Shank, Elmwood; Kellie Sharp, Amanda-Clear Creek; Kerry Sheridan, Federal Hocking; Sara Sherman, Liberty Center; Kevin Shinsky, Wellington; Jeffrey Shoup, Waynedale; Nathan Shoup, Waynedale; Joseph Shultz, Indian Lake; Tim Shupert, Tri-Valley; Delila Simpson, Hillsdale; Joshua Sinn, Wayne Trace; Jeffery Sloan, Oak Harbor; Ryan Andrew Smith, Canal Winchester; Tony Sparks, Ohio Valley Vocational; David Stacy, Old Fort; Amanda Staley, Mt. Gilead; Anthony Stoller, Norwayne; Ross Stoller, Wayne Trace; Trent Stoller, Wayne Trace; Daniel Sturgill, Miami East; Mary Jane Thompson, Miami Trace; Michael Thompson, Marysville; Brad Tobe, Ansonia; Travis Tracey, Benjamin Logan; David Traxler, North Central; Andrew Tumblin, River View; Lucas Underwood, Upper Scioto Valley; Chris Vallery, Madison Plains; Rebecca Vaughn, Talawanda; Jennifer Wagner, Preble Shawnee; Melanie Wagner, Oak Harbor; Jennifer Walters, Elmwood; Joshua Walters, Elmwood; Kyle Ward, Upper Sandusky; Lisa Warne, Benjamin Logan; Kellie Warner, Margaretta; Gregory Waters, Ridgewood; Robb Webb, Cardington; Tonya Wensink, Bowling Green; Marty Wertz, Sentinel Tiffin; John Westhoven, Liberty



Special moments such as these become treasured memories. Kari Wagner of the Creighton FFA Chapter in Nebraska embrace her grandparents Don and Beverly Eggen during the American FFA Degree brunch.

Center; Korie Wetzel, River Valley; Josh Wilmoth, Mowrytown; Ben Winans, Wayne Trace; Martin Winders, Ridgedale; Brad Woodruff, East Clinton; Chip Yochum, Hillsboro; Connie Young, Elmwood; Julie Zieber, Bellevue; Mark Zielke, Wayne Trace
OKLAHOMA: Josh Allen, Burlington; Ryan Wesley Anderson, Prague; Jennifer Baker, Talihina; Jesse Balfour, Checotah; Jacob Ballard, Tahlequah; Ashlea Jo Barby, Laverne; Anthony Barton, Harrah; Matt Barton, Drumright; Stephanie Beda, Weatherford; Eddie Bell, Cushing; Robert Berkembile, Morrison, Jay Boston, Adair; Doug Bounds, Elk City; Roy Branch, Chickasha; Meredith Brown, Copan; Jonna Bruce, Sharon-Mutual; Shad Chaloupek, Beaver; Gina Ciuffetelli, Cushing; Bryan Clift, Tishomingo; Albert Daniel Cole, Stringtown; Melissa Conway, Perry; Stacy Cordes, Arapaho; Terry Cox, Spiro; William Cubbage, Oologah; Lance Dobbins, Thomas-Fay-Custer, Kyle Dorton, Big Pasture; Dustin Duncan, Cameron; Matthew Elliott, Burlington; Laci Eutsler, Tahlequah; Kari Evans, LeFlore; Scott Fesmire, Timberlake; Leigh Ann Fischer, Hooker, Clayton Ray Fisher, Lomega; Todd Forrest, Tahlequah; Kent Gardner, Sharon-Mutual; Andrea Geis, Okeene; Mandy Lynette Hagerman, Sweetwater; Ashley Harrison, Hooker; Jamie Hayton, Billings; Nathan Holloway, Mooreland; Christopher Hunt, Grandfield; Brian Jantzen, Burlington; Nicole Jarrell, Stratford; David Johnson, Tishomingo; Ethan Keiffer, Timberlake; Mandie Kight, Talihina; Kim Kishing, Burlington; Deanna Knopp, Okeene; John Koesler, Vinita; Chance Kornegay, Owasso; Chase Kornegay, Owasso; Susan Leierer, Burlington; Lesley Levins, Durant; Dustin Lewis, Yale; Dee Jay Linn, Frontier; David Mann Jr., Checotah; Van Marsalis, Waynoka; Kyle Martin, Kiowa; James Matousek, Hennessey; Kevin Mehler, Guthrie; Austin Meier, Okeene; Daniel Neely, Nowata; Cody Ray Nelson, Calera; Rhonda Nida, Tonkawa; CaSandra Lyn Ninemire, Hardesty; Matthew Orr, Ponca City; Kristy Pederson, Burlington; D. J. Peper, Adair; Ryne Daniel Perdue, Spiro; Michael Pettijohn, Chickasha; Julie Ann Pickard, Blanchard; Heather Pollard, Hennessey; Stephanie Pollard, Hennessey; Chad Leroy Quary, Prague; Wylie Rakestraw, Shattuck; Thomas Reggie Ramsey, Adair; Annie Reim, Billings; Curtis Rice, Ringwood; Jeff Ryan, Pryor; Masen Ryel, Aline Cleo; Jared Schneberger, Sentinel; Michael Stephen Schulte, Kingfisher; Kurtis Sears, Nowata; Justin Sehi, Weatherford; Jason Simon, Elk City; Beth Smith, Cache; Ryan Sorrell, Durant; Keith Sorrels, Kiowa; Montie Soules, Skiatook; Rosslyn Clarke Spencer, Chickasha; Ryan Keith Steward, Tecumseh; Marissa Stinnett, Tahlequah; Rory Stricklin, Prague; Ryan Thomas, Fort Supply; Michele Thralls, Billings; Kyle Utsler, Prague; Skye Varner, Bristow; Andrew Vos, Prague; Jimmy Ray Ward, Durant; Allison Welker, Spiro; John Welker, Adair; Richard Willhour III, Inola; Natalie Willingham, Stratford; Brian



American FFA Degree

Wilson, Rock Creek; Jon Wilson, Elk City; Jed Winters, Navajo; Toby Wood, Hennessey; Yancy Elliot Wright, Mooreland

OREGON. Casey Aschim, Yamhill-Carlton; Cari Ann Bakker, Hermiston; Rachel Bradley, Elkton; Benjamin Bunn III, Dayton; Jeremy Lee Chamberlain, Vale; Destinee Chapin, Gervais; Amanda Corn, Ontario; John Dimick IV, Eagle Point; Jacinta Duyck, Hillsboro; Amber Gamel, Dayton; Dominic Giordano, Bonanza; Tyler Hansell, Hermiston; Steve Harris, Roseburg; Amber Holland, North Clackamas; Justin Husbands, Union; Megan Kleck, Union; Kristen Kyles, Weston-McEwen; Samuel Dale March, Junction City; Diane McFetridge, Enterprise; Marc McFetridge, Enterprise; Mindi Mitchell, Union; Jennifer Jean Moore, Vale; Nick Nelson, Oakland; Chris Pahl, Pendleton; Mandy Palmer, Ontario; Trent Ricksger, Canby; Kurt William Romans, Vale; Justin Scharf, Amity; Jason Sherman, Ontario; DeNae Simms, Lakeview; Troy Tubbs, McLoughlin; Brandon Van Atta, Ontario; Charlie Vandehey, Forest Grove; Jeffery VanDyke, Yamhill-Carlton; Travis Waite, Junction City; Karen Williams, Dayton; Amanda Williams-Ramsey, Redmond

PENNSYLVANIA: Allen Behrer, Tyrone Area; Brad Benfer, Selinsgrove; Jayme Benner, Mifflinburg; Laurie Bero, Chestnut Ridge; Kevin Brightbill, Greenwood; Diane Cockroft, Moniteau; Michelle Cornman, Big Spring; Scott Defibaugh, Northern Bedford County; Christina Erway, Cowanesque; Herb Hoffeditz, Conococheague; Elizabeth Hollenbach, West Snyder; Linda Huber, Grassland; Troy Robert Klingler, Selinsgrove; John Lampman III, Linesville; Cory Mellott, Conococheague; Steven Radel, Selinsgrove; Jonathan Smiley, Brothersvalley; Kenneth Snyder Jr., Tyrone Area; Kerry Ernest Snyder, Line Mountain/Mahantango; Isaac Vorisek, Linesville; Chad Walker, West Greene; Kristina Leigh Watson, West Perry; Ryan Werner, Mohawk; Joanna Wilson, Wilmington

PURPLE RICO. Victor Mendez-Del Valle, Jose' Barcelo'; Carlos Javier Ruiz-Vargas, Francisco Vicenty; Jose Manuel Santiago-Gonzalez, Piedra Gorda

SOUTH CAROLINA: Trenton Dale Tyler, Loris

SOUTH DAKOTA: Ben Butzke, McCook Central; Christie Eichacker, McCook Central; Ryan Karl Eichler, Groton; John Erk, Newell; Tracy Fleming, Harrisburg; Chris Gotfredson, Newell; Kelly Ann Grace, West Central; Doria Gregg, McCook Central; K. C. Gregg, McCook Central; Troy Haag, West Central; Andrea Huffman, Harrisburg; Barry Jacobson, McCook Central; Eric Knutson, Harrisburg; Ryan Knutson, Canton; Adam Lauck, McCook Central; Michael Leheska, Chamberlain; Shane McGregor, McCook Central; Jonathan Minor, Newell; Mark Mueller, Milbank; Jerry Osterberg, McCook Central; Lee Osterberg, McCook Central; Allyn Paulson, Groton; Cade Peterson, Chamberlain; Ben Roling, McCook Central; Kandi Lynn Shape, McCook Central; Jeff Skinner, Harrisburg; Nick Sletten, Canton; Brock Streff, McCook Central; Jennifer Titus, West Central; Marc Tuschen, McCook Central

TENNESSEE: Robert Amburn, Cumberland; Samuel Oliver Anderson, White; David Avery, Spring Hill; Katy Bailey, Spring Hill; Steve

Dodson, Cumberland County; Rebecca Jill Farlow, Riverside; Mathew Fields, Volunteer; Kendra Floyd, Eagleville; Rebecca Frye, Dyer County; Brandon Fuston, Warren County; Daniel Ray Green, Cumberland County; Daryl Ray Griffith, Dresden; Jeremiah Hollingsworth, Dyersburg; Clifford Bert Hutcherson, Spring Hill; Jennie Klepper, Cherokee; Miles Ledbetter Jr., Midway; T. J. Leitch, Riverside; Allen Maples, White County; Robert Allyn McLean, Dyer County; Travis McNeely, Spring Hill; Scott Metz, Cherokee; Ben Moore, Dresden; Jamie Mundy, Powell Valley; Nicholas Nash, Dyersburg; Jay Oliver, Dresden; Kyle Pettigrew, Riverside; Christopher Pierce, Northside; John Raines, Humboldt; Mark Read, East Robertson; David Reed, Spring Hill; Daniel Renfroe, Riverside; Jon Reuschel, Cherokee; Justin Rhinehart, Cumberland County; Amos Rogan, Cherokee; Barry Scobey, Dyer County; Michel Scott, Riverside; Matthew Stark, East Robertson; Frankie Stiles, Cookeville; Leslie Sullens, Eagleville; Heath Tate, Portland; Kristy Taylor, Gordonsville; Thomas Vick, Spring Hill; Kyle Watson, Dekalb County; Joshua

Katrina Burnam, Pleasanton; John Butler, Raymondville; Clark Campbell, Goldthwaite; Cassinda Gay Carraway, Livingston; Will Collier, Snyder; Pete Cotter, Pleasanton; Jake David, Chester; Jeremy Derington, Plainview; George Diggans, Cotulla; Todd Dooley, Round Top-Carmine; Gayle Dornak, El Campo; Nick Dornak, Goliad; Dane Elliott, Three Rivers; Jason Cody Fleming, Academy; Chad Frank, Tomball; Justin Gilliam, Quanah; Brad Githens, Perryton; Jennifer Goetzman, Mayde Creek; Tony Goodman, Nimitz; Sheena Grote, Forney; Wayne Grothues, Pleasanton; Brice Haines, Booker; Keith Harkey, New Deal; Brent Harper, Booker; Jared Harrell, Livingston; Kristina Harris, Pearland; Raymond Harrison III, Wharton; Robert Horton, Mabank; Shauna Huddleston, Snyder; Jennifer Jadlowski, Bryan; Melissa Jadlowski, Bryan; Kenneth Jahn, Weimar; Blaine Jenschke, Jourdanton; Chad Johnson, Perryton; Karla DeAnn Johnson, Sulphur Springs; Ryan Johnston, Sealy; Jeff Klose, Lometa; Nora Linda Krause, Florence; Kellie Krebs, Calallen; Joshua Lackey, Midlothian; Lauren Langbein, Comfort; Mark Loeffler, Comfort; Colby Mangum, Pleasanton; Jason Marburger, Round Top-Carmine; Niterion McBride, Brenham; Mark McClure, Cleburne; Jarrod Miller, New Deal; Russell Miller, Amherst; Matthew Mitchell, Booker; Stephen Ohnheiser, Weimar; Sara Peers, Krum; Russell Perry, Franklin; Jarret Pigg, Valley; Michael Potter, South Garland; Tanner Power, Odem; Casey Ramsey, Byers; Michelle Rutledge, McKinney; Cletus Schenck, Holliday; Ray David Schmidt, Waller; Jacob Sears, Chico; Robert Shipley, Fairfield; Tye Snowden, Cotulla; Matthew Stokes, Orange Grove; Andy Strittmatter, Pilot Point; Robert Swierc Jr., Falls City; Justin Szymanski, Sealy; Cliff Thomas, Teague; Kenneth Ryan Townsend, Killeen; Jill Turner, Anahuac; Mark Vitanza, Nimitz; Brandon Vos, Katy; Bobby Waddell, Anson; Jarret Weinheimer, Panhandle; Jamie Wells, Madisonville; Cayce Weston, Azle; Wynne Whitworth, Comfort; Amanda Wiederhold, Troy; Rachel Ann Williams, Boling; Kevin Woelfel, Round Top-Carmine; Clint Wolfe, Cotulla; Bradley Joe Wunderlich, Round Top-Carmine; Cole David



No sibling rivalry here—Ben and Laura Grove (brother and sister) bask in the glory of achieving the American FFA Degree. They hail from the Turner Ashby FFA Chapter in Virginia.

Bernard, East Robertson; Adam Bowman, Cherokee; Justin Bryant, Eagleville; Shane Burchfiel, Dyer County; Aaron Cope, Cherokee; Meredith Crosby, Riverside; Melissa Crossley, Eagleville; Tommy Culwell, Warren County; George Michael Davis, Polk County; Amy Michelle Disman, Portland; Daniel Ray

Wills, Gordonsville; Robert Claborne Wilson, Cumberland County; Benjamin Joshua Worley, Culpeoka

TEXAS: Andy Abrameit, Golia; J. J. Akin, Henderson; James Andrae, Wintes; Kimberly Ann Bailes, Shepherd; Michelle Baldwin, Leon; Casey Bartek, Poteet; Clay Bishop, Thorndale; Dana Boehm, Hutto;

American FFA Degree

Young, Katy; Andrea Zant, Chisum; Tiffany Zavisch, Tilden
UTAH: Dusty Bingham, Box Elder; Shad Christensen, Fremont; Jacob Ellsworth, Payson; Cassie Ercanbrack, Payson; Joshua Evans, Lone Peak; Suzanne Evans, Weber; Jerry Fowers, Payson; Wayne Frisby, Wasatch; Trevor Garn, Morgan County; Kerry Ann Greenhalgh, South Sevier; Lacy Hansen, Weber; Jordan Hansen, Emery Sr.; Jerry Hartmann, Weber; William Leverton, Emery Sr.; Hillary Liddle, Payson; Scott McFarlane Jr., Morgan County; Josh Munns, Bear River; Richard Parkinson, Clearfield; Rachael Porter, Morgan County; Jason Price, Wasatch; Shane Lewis Rhoades, Clearfield; Matt Roach, Spanish Fork; William Rose, Bear River; Mindi Schofield, Manila; David Thomas, Payson; Zac Vane, Payson; Daryn Westergard, Fremont; Alan Williams, Spanish Fork; Michael Wilson, Lehi; Staci Zilles, Mountain Crest

VERMONT: Aaron Ouellette, Middlebury

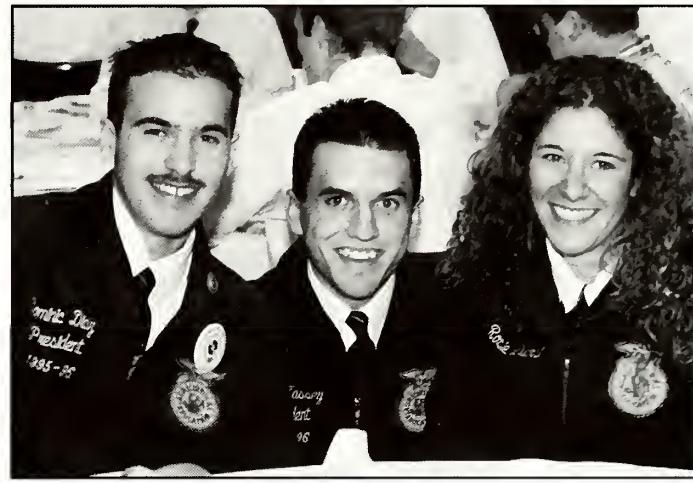
VIRGINIA: Tabatha Baker, Stonewall Jackson; Gregory Buchanan, Riverheads; Scott Buchanan, Riverheads; Jason Bushong, Central; Laurel Chapman, Central; Ann Clark Cooley, Sherando; Eric Dalke, Central; Joseph Davis, Turner Ashby; Charles DeHaven, James Wood; Justin DeHaven, James Wood; Jeremy Denson, Sherando; Stefanie Everts, James Wood; Charles French Jr., Central; Benjamin Grove, Turner Ashby; Wesley Haskins, Park View Sr.; Sonja Houff, Spotswood; Shep Hudson, Park View Sr.; Russell Jennings, Carroll County; Tiffany Paige Keplinger, James Wood; Lynn (Trey) Keyser III, Page County; Michael Ray Kibler, Central; Stacey Kiser, Turner Ashby; Catherine Knight, Buffalo Gap; Tamra Lee Langford, Halifax County; Todd Legge, Sherando; Matthew Lewis, Northumberland Sr.; Jennifer Madagan, Sherando; Skylor Mohler, Rockbridge County; Carrie Monger, Turner Ashby; Elizabeth Nesselrodt, James Wood; Christopher Nobili, Carroll County; Justin Pence, Central; Ben Phillips, Christiansburg; Erin Pugh, James Wood; Brad Ramsey, Strasburg; Elizabeth Ramsey, Strasburg; Mark Ramsey, Strasburg; Derek Reece, Pulaski County; Jason Roller, Fort Defiance; Charlie Roy,

Sherando; Jonathan Ryan, Stonewall Jackson; Jeremy Seal, Spotswood; Timothy Scott Seal, Spotswood; Clay Sellers, Broadway; George Smelley, Park View Sr.; Kevin Michael Spurlin, Grayson Co.; Susan Amanda Stiles, Strasburg; Amy Stultz, Central; Mindy Switzer, Turner Ashby; Seth Taylor, Rural Retreat; Brian Tusing, Broadway; Sarah Tusing, Broadway; Courtney White, Turner Ashby

WASHINGTON: Cory Appleford, Asotin; Tanya Barnhart, Ellensburg; Kyle Bauer, Ritzville; Caleb Booth, Othello; Andrew Cockle, Nooksack Valley; Nathan Colom, Fife; Christina Cotterill, Snohomish; Kurtis Cox, Warden; Nathan Cox, Warden; LeAnne Crossland, Yelm; Jennifer Deking, Ritzville; Travis DeVore, Ritzville; Scott Dale Duffner, Ephrata; Lance Dugon, Eastmont; Travis Greenwalt, Liberty; Danika Gwinn, Pomeroy; Misty Hopkins, Kettle Falls; Kicker Meacham, Pomeroy; Ryan Pope, Moses Lake; Bonnie Russell, Moses Lake; Eric Siebens, White River; Jennifer Solbrack, Othello; Jared Templin, Ritzville; Andrea Wedin, Ellensburg; Jacob Winona, Almira-Coulee-Hartline

WEST VIRGINIA: James Beatty, Mineral County; James Hays, Roane County; Jeremy Keen, Roane County; Steven Lambert, Taylor County; Timothy Malone, St. Marys; Stephanie McGee, Jefferson; Josh Mullins, Ripley; Dawn Smith, Ripley; Amy Tabb, Jefferson; Daniel Woods, Tygarts Valley

WISCONSIN: Michael Aird, Cuba City; Troy Ambrose, Amherst; Tracy Anderson, Sun Prairie; James Bays II, Adams Friendship; Robert Beckard, Shullsburg; Tonya Bockhop, Cambridge; Jeffrey Bode, Cuba City; Nicole Brunskill, Shullsburg; Brian Burma, Black Hawk-South Wayne; Jamie Bylsma, Randolph; Nickolas Casey, Markesan; Todd Chase, Weyauwega-Fremont; Samuel Cooke, Eau Claire North; Rusty Coyle, Granton; Joshua Dambroski, Amherst; Jennifer Digman, Cuba City; Allen Dornacker, Slinger; Theron Drier, Durand; Staci Eickert, Brillion; James Evans, Randolph; Cheryl Fabry, Oconto Falls; Darby Fuller, Rio; Jeremy Furseth, Stoughton; Stacy Geurden, Oshkosh West; Zech Gotham, New Auburn; Luke Grusznski, Denmark; Kristin



Dominic Diaz, Bryan Tassey, and Rosie Livorsi, all of California, celebrate after obtaining the highest degree in the FFA.

Haakenson, Evansville; Nicole Haines, Kickapoo; Shawn Halvorson, Lincoln-Alma Center; Michelle Harelstad, New Auburn; Rebecca Harvey, Ripon; Mike Heim, Denmark; Nick Hemling, Beaver Dam; Andrew Hendrickson, Randolph; Regina Hitchcock, Cambridge; Jamie Horsfall, River Ridge; Heidi Lynn Hughes, Oshkosh West; Cara James, Montello; Allan Jastromski, Amherst; Michael Joas, Kiel; Ryan James Kirchberg, Fort Atkinson; Shelli Kleist, Weyauwega-Fremont; Paul Knoff, Granton; James Knott, Waupaca; Mark Krueger, Kiel; Ross Kundert, Pecatonica-Blanchardville; Kurt Lehman, Reedsburg; Jeremy Leifker, Cuba City; Kristopher Lien, Lincoln-Alma Center; William Lloyd, Elk Mound; Susan Long, Octonto Falls; Jessica Looker, Weyauwega-Fremont; Emily Maier, Fennimore; Brian Marotz, Pioneer Westfield; Michael Mason, River Ridge; Deborah Meyer, Colby; Joseph Meyer, Colby; Aaron Miller, Black Hawk-South Wayne; Angela Moris, Fennimore; Jason Morrissey, Shullsburg; Melissa Movrich, Stoughton; Theodore Mueller, Johnson Creek; Jennifer Mundt, Pittsville; Erin Anne Napralla, Montello; Bjorn Neumann, Osceola; Kristi Orchard, East Troy; Janel Pagenkopf, Bloomer; Charles Pearce, Big Foot-Walworth; Jeffrey Pionek, Pulaski; Howard Pope, Waupaca; Samuel Prindle, Lincoln-Alma Center; Chris Quam, Stoughton; Jeffrey Mark Riechers, Belmont; Ryan Riedesel, Tomah; Jerrud Rossing, River Valley; Bradley Alan Rowe, Granton; Nathan

Russell, Shullsburg; Carla Louise Ruzic, Lincoln-Alma Center; Brenda Ryan, Pecatonica-Blanchardville; Megan Schaefer, Marshfield; Jared Schaffner, Cochrane-Fountain City; Kris Schank, Independence; William Schaumberg, Seymour; Scott Schneider, Randolph; Steve Schroeder, Lake Mills; Jennifer Schultz, Granton; Rodney Selzler, Stanley Boyd; Eric Shruck, Pioneer Westfield; Jeffrey Spoke, Lake Mills; Leslie Renea Strauch, Augusta; Megan Stubrud, Lincoln-Alma Center; Michael Sullivan, Amherst; Michael Swanson, Granton; Pamela Thurk, Mayville; Lora Timm, Weyauwega-Fremont; Jodi Tischauer, Marion; Jennifer Topel, Lake Mills; Adam Turany, Bloomer; Glen Van De Hei, Denmark; Chad Vaupel, Granton; Amy Lynn Vine, Neillsville; Chad Weinberger, Randolph; James Wells, Sparta; Steve Wethal, Stoughton; Lacy Wiegel, Darlington; Rachel Zabel, Stoughton; Geoff Zanton, Milton; Rebecca Zeeman, Bonduel; Dan Ziegler, Sauk Prairie; Donald Zimmerman, Elkhart Lake

WYOMING: Kacy Atkinson, Snowy Range; Brock Burch, Casper; Megan Darnell, Newcastle; Melisa Griffith, Riverside; Diane Hamilton, Riverside; Ronda Pulse, Cheyenne East; Becki Sheldon, Sheridan; Jeff Skalsky, Powell; John Tass, Buffalo; Kattlyn Wolf, Snowy Range



National Chapter Awards

NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARD

Sponsored by Cargill

The 7,503 chapters across the United States compete each year to win a National Chapter Award. Those listed here have achieved excellence in the three areas honored by the award - developing student leaders, working together to form strong chapters, and serving their communities.

The three top chapters from the Three Star area were selected as Models of Innovation in student, chapter and community development. Students from each chapter were congratulated on stage and presented with a plaque during Thursday afternoon's session.

NATIONAL WINNER-STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Bowling Green FFA Chapter,
Bowling Green, Ohio

This Ohio FFA Chapter involved 100 percent of their membership by hosting such activities as a school-wide leadership day and providing recreation after meetings. Their dedication to leadership, career development and scholarship placed them in the winner's circle for student development.

NATIONAL WINNER-CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Spencer FFA Chapter,
Spencer, Wis.

The implementation of a program entitled "Spreading the News About FFA" put this outstanding chapter in the spotlight. Their chapter events were highlighted in the newspaper, on the Internet, in a National FFA photo shoot, and on television and radio.

The chapter also started a junior FFA chapter.

NATIONAL WINNER-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Creston FFA Chapter,
Creston, Iowa

Progressive projects like "Earth Alert," "Project Downtown," and "SAFE — Stop Accidents For Ever" launched the Creston FFA Chapter into national victory. Various activities promoting safety and community spirit helped the chapter build partnerships, generating goodwill between the FFA and Creston for years to come.

THREE STAR

CALIFORNIA: Norco; Ripon
COLORADO: McClave

IDAHO: Kuna

INDIANA: Shenandoah

IOWA: Creston; Harlan; Mid-Prairie; St. Ansgar; Vinton

KANSAS: Chapman

KENTUCKY: Scott County;
Spencer County

MAINE: Presque Isle

MICHIGAN: Corunna

MINNESOTA: Battle Lake; Forest Lake

MISSOURI: Aurora; Carthage;
El Dorado Springs; Marionville

MONTANA: Flathead; Shields Valley

NEW JERSEY: Allentown

NEW MEXICO: Alamogordo;
Artesia

OHIO: Blanchester; Bowling Green; East Clinton; Hardin Northern; Indian Valley; London; Marysville; Miami Trace; National Trail; New Bremen; Preble Shawnee; Talawanda; Versailles

OKLAHOMA: Chattanooga;
Drummond; Elk City; Fort Gibson; Guymon; Sapulpa;
Stillwater; Tecumseh

OREGON: Perrydale

PENNSYLVANIA: West Snyder

TEXAS: Calallen; Mansfield;
Nacogdoches; Rockdale

VIRGINIA: Central; Park View Sr.; Stonewall Jackson; Turner Ashby

WASHINGTON: Yelm

WISCONSIN: Spencer;
Waupaca; Weyauwega
Fremont

Hoehne; Pueblo County; Yuma

CONNECTICUT: Housatonic;
Rockville

DELAWARE: Smyrna; Sussex Central

FLORIDA: Pine Ridge; Suwannee

GEORGIA: Gilmer County;
Jackson County

IDAHO: Cambridge; Firth;
Meridian

ILLINOIS: Amboy; Ashton; Blue Ridge; Bushnell-Prairie City;
Chicago Ag Science; Cissna Park; Clinton; Eastland;
Eldorado; Franklin Center;
Greenville; Leroy; Liberty;
Manteno; Midwest Central;

Morrisonville; Mount Carroll;
Mount Vernon; Newark; Olney;
Rowva; Seneca; Serena;
Somonauk-Leland; Tri Valley Comm;
Valmeyer; Warsaw;
Webber

INDIANA: Benton Central;
Carroll; Clinton Central;



Dr. Larry Case, national FFA advisor, congratulates a Model of Innovation chapter, recognizing the top chapters whose programs exemplify student, chapter and community development.

TWO STAR

ALABAMA: Eufaula; Fort Payne

ARIZONA: Cibola; Gilbert;
Peoria; Yuma

ARKANSAS: Mountain Home Jr.;
Paris

CALIFORNIA: Fallbrook;

Firebaugh

COLORADO: Eaton; Flagler;
Fort Lupton; Fruita Monument;

Delphi; Mount Vernon; North Montgomery; North Newton;
North Posey; Prairie Heights;
Reitz; South Adams;
Southmont; Western Boone;
Whitko; Woodlan

IOWA: Agri-Power; Algona;
Charles City; Estherville;
G & G, Manson Northwest Webster;
Maquoketa Valley;
Marengo; Monticello; Mount

National Chapter Awards



Creston, Iowa, FFA members can hardly contain their excitement as they are named a Model of Innovation for Community Development. Their program of activities focused on promoting safety and community spirit.

Ayr; North Fayette; Osceola; Prairie Valley; Rockwell-Sheffield; Sibley-Ocheyedan; Wapsie Valley; West Marshall
KANSAS: Abilene; Arkansas City; Atwood; Highland; Hill City; Holton; Marysville; Neodesha; North Central; South Barber
KENTUCKY: Apollo; Barren County; Central Hardin; Fulton County; Jessamine County; McLean County; Ohio County; Oldham County; Pendleton County
LOUISIANA: Hathaway; Midland; Welsh
MARYLAND: Frederick; Walkersville
MICHIGAN: Perry
MINNESOTA: Benson; Blue Earth; Brainerd; Perham; Stillwater; United South Central; Watertown-Mayer; Willmar; Zumbrota-Mazeppa
MISSISSIPPI: Carthage
MISSOURI: Cameron; Chillicothe; Clopton; Columbia; Eldon; Monroe City R-1; Norborne; North Shelby; Northwest Technical School; Salisbury; Sweet Springs; Troy; Union
MONTANA: Cascade
NEBRASKA: Filley; Franklin; Fullerton; Imperial; Norris; Ravenna; Schuyler; Superior; Sutton; Syracuse; Tri County
NEVADA: Silver Sage
NEW JERSEY: Penns Grove

NEW MEXICO: Aztec; Grady; Magdalena; Moriarty
NEW YORK: Medina
NORTH CAROLINA: South Rowan; Sun Valley; West Carteret
NORTH DAKOTA: Finley-Sharon; Lisbon; Rugby
OHIO: Amanda-Clear Creek; Anna; Ansonia; Canal Winchester; Elmwood; Greenville; Johnstown; Lancaster; Lynchburg Clay; Margaretta; Minster; River View; Riverdale; Twin Valley South; West Muskingum; Wilmington
OKLAHOMA: Burlington; Cashion; Durant; Grandfield; Harrah; Hobart; Laverne; Medford; Morris; Roland; Tuttle; Waynoka
OREGON: Amity; Hillsboro
SOUTH CAROLINA: Aiken; Belton Honea Path; Latta; Loris; McBee; Pelion
SOUTH DAKOTA: Elkton; Garretson; Groton; Harrisburg; McCook Central; Milbank; West Central
TENNESSEE: Bradley Central; Cherokee; Dyersburg; Lexington; McMinn County; Portland; Powell Valley; Riverside
TEXAS: Brownsboro; Bryan; Burleson; Central; Clear Brook; Clear Creek; Clear Lake; Columbus; Dayton; Devine; Fairfield; Jacksboro; Katy; Klein; McCullough; Mexia; Mission;

Northwest; Orange Grove; Pilot Point; Plainview; Plano East Senior High; Pleasanton; Ross S. Sterling; Royal; Ryan; Sidney Lanier; Snyder; Tomball; Weimar

UTAH: Emery Sr.; Lone Peak; South Summit; Tooele

VIRGINIA: Fort Defiance; James Wood; Louisa; Signal Knob Middle; Strasburg

WASHINGTON: Cathlamet; Elma; Evergreen; Monroe; Mountain View; Ritzville; Sumner; Walla Walla; Wenatchee; Winlock; Zillah

WEST VIRGINIA: Ripley; Roane County

WISCONSIN: Beaver Dam; Big Foot; Black Hawk South Wayne; Bloomer; Clear Lake; Cochrane Fountain City; Denmark; Fort Atkinson; Freedom; Granton; Loyal; Marathon; Marshfield; Mauston; Mishicot; Montello; New Holstein; Pulaski; Randolph; Stevens Point; Stratford; Verona

WYOMING: Cheyenne; Paintrock; Sheridan

ONE STAR

ALABAMA: Enterprise

CALIFORNIA: Fontana; La Puente Valley ROP; Polytechnic; Ridgeview-Bakersfield; Yosemite

COLORADO: Springfield

FLORIDA: Armwood; Clewiston; Colonial; Columbia; Coral Reef; Deltona Middle; Dixie County Sr.; Durant Senior; Lafayette Sr.; Moore Haven; New Smyrna Beach Middle; North Marion Senior; Ponce de Leon; Sebring Senior; Weightman Middle

ILLINOIS: Carlyle

INDIANA: North Harrison; Rensselaer

IOWA: West Liberty

KANSAS: Norton; Southwestern Heights; Wamego

KENTUCKY: Meade County; Mercer; Webster County

LOUISIANA: Lacassine; Mt. Hermon; North Central High

MARYLAND: Frederick Co.

Career & Tech Center

MICHIGAN: Byron; Caledonia; Marshall; Montague; Unionville-Sebewaing

MINNESOTA: Fulda; Kimball; Maple River; Marshall; New Ulm; Randolph; Staples-Motley; Tracy

MISSISSIPPI: Neshoba Central; Nettleton; Seminary

MISSOURI: Albany; Branson; Brunswick; Dexter; Gallatin; Glasgow; Kansas City East; Salem; Sarcoxie

MONTANA: Carter Co; Conrad; Judith Gap

NEBRASKA: Broken Bow; Norfolk

NEVADA: Ruby Mountain

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Pinkerton Academy; Region 9

NEW JERSEY: North Warren

NEW MEXICO: Mesa Vista

OHIO: Hillsboro; Madison Plains; Miami Valley CTC

OKLAHOMA: Carter; Cordell; Davenport; Stratford

PENNSYLVANIA: Brothersvalley; Conococheague-James Buchanan; Cowanesque; Grassland; Lenape AVTS; Manheim; Manor; Selinsgrove; Twin Valley

SOUTH CAROLINA: Travelers Rest

TENNESSEE: Anderson County; East Robertson; Gordonsville; Munford; North Knox; Peabody

TEXAS: Booker; Brenham; Cotulla; Hamshire-Fannett; Iola; Klein Oak; McGregor; McKinney; Navasota; Saltillo; Sealy; Sinton; Tidehaven; Tilden

UTAH: Bear River; Fremont

VERMONT: Central Vermont

VIRGINIA: Abingdon; Atlee; Bluestone; Christiansburg; Dinwiddie; Fauquier; North Fork; Northumberland

WASHINGTON: Kettle Falls; Liberty; Mabton; Stanwood; White River

WEST VIRGINIA: Jefferson; Ravenswood; St. Marys; Tyler

WISCONSIN: Arcadia

WYOMING: Lander



FARM BOYS AND A DREAM

Hillary Smith, National FFA President, Perry, Ga.

In this very city, a dream began. Thirty-three young men, farm boys, dreamed of an organization that would enrich, complete and add value to the agriculture courses they took in public high schools across the country. Over time millions have come to recognize the famous blue and gold corduroy jackets as a symbol of leadership, witnessed the transformation in students' lives, and watched as awards are given and young people recognized through FFA. Many of these encounters came first-hand. More than nine million young people have held an FFA membership card. What began 71 years ago as 33 farm boys and a dream, lives on today as you and I and almost 450,000 other young people are living the dream, the dream of FFA.

Our path in life is often led by our dreams. What we are living depends upon what we have dreamed and what dreams we are following. In the Book of Genesis, Joseph the son of Jacob was known as a dreamer and an interpreter of dreams. His interpretation for the King of Egypt saved Israel from famine during a seven-year period of starvation. Thomas Jefferson dreamed of an agrarian society. His dream continues as we recognize the importance of agriculture in our country's society and economy. John Kennedy dreamed America would walk on the moon and Neil Armstrong's historic first

steps are forever etched in history. The reason Israel survived, agriculture continues and we reached the moon is because dreams are goals energized by passion. What began as farm boys and a dream is today's National FFA Organization. Why did it prosper? Because dreams become the basis for passionate action.

As FFA members and delegates to this 71st National FFA Convention we have reached a significant milestone. We have an illustrious history, one in which we can take pride. But the future beckons and our task is far from complete. Steer your life by the truth. Proverbs chapter 29 verse 18, says, "Where there is no vision the people perish." Who would have ever imagined that 33 young men in 1928 would become 450,000 young men and women of all races and creeds in 1998? The history of FFA and our dreams follow a well-established path. Our dreams are created, shared, and most importantly lived.

Creation is always the beginning. Dreaming is no different. Begin your dreams by creating in your mind. Ask yourself these questions: Where do I want to be in 10 years? What do I enjoy? How do I want to be described and remembered? During a quiet moment wonder in your mind what your life will look like when you are your parents' age.



One of the highlights of my year has been receiving mail. In these letters you shared with me your dreams. Charlie, who is at home this week helping out with his family's business, dreams of building his newly chartered FFA chapter to greatness. Through chapter meetings and banquets, Charlie is sharing his dreams with chapter members. Tony, a New York FFA member, dreams of helping others the way his favorite elementary teachers helped him, by laughing and smiling and having a positive attitude. Sharing his dream with others will help everyone Tony meets.

All of us in this auditorium share in the dream of FFA. To put your dreams closer to completion, share them with other people. Right now choose someone in your life who would listen and be your cheerleader. Share your dreams.

Invest the thought and consideration required to create your dreams. As you return home, survey your interests, inventory your goals and create your dreams.

A current TV commercial tells us "You can accomplish anything you set your mind to, but you can't do it alone." We all need support groups, advocates and cheerleaders. Share your dreams with other people. Begin with your network of supporters. Include others in your dream. Let them give you hope and share your vision.

Retiring Address

champion ribbon on your steer when you close your eyes; then walk, brush and care for that steer the best you can every day.

Living your dreams does not ensure achieving your dreams. Joseph lived the dream of being a state champion wrestler for four years. He devoted his free time and his high school days to living his dream. At the end of his freshmen, sophomore and junior year, Joseph experienced frustrating injuries that prevented him from advancing to the state championship. Still he continued preparing until his senior year. But yet again a shoulder injury robbed Joseph of his dream. Today as a college freshmen he is a better person for the hard work and perseverance. In California I watched 59 of you live your dream of running for state FFA office. Even though only six would be elected, all of you had the courage to try—the courage to live your dreams. Living your dreams builds character; this is more important than ribbons on the wall or trophies in the case.

There are many reasons to dream of your future. Why did Jefferson advocate agriculture, Kennedy push for the moon, my brother continue to try, or Kansas City support a student convention when other cities scoffed at such a thought? Why? Because they believed in their dreams and loved what they were doing. Those who live their dreams never ask “what if?”

What if during the Second World War the national FFA convention in Kansas City had ceased? What if females were never allowed membership?

What if the curriculum only included production agriculture? The national FFA convention continues and all races, genders and creeds are members, and all types of agriculture are included. Why? Because what began as a dream in 1928 with 33 farm boys was followed up with passionate action. FFA members, realize that when you leave this auditorium, this city, for the last time today that you are living a dream. It is my responsibility, your responsibility to keep the dream of FFA alive and well! Never ask “what if!” Live your dreams!

*FFA members, realize
that when you leave
this auditorium, this
city, for the last time
today that you are
living a dream.*

This year if you received a letter from me, it ended “live your dreams.” Over the last 12 months, you have let me live one of my dreams. Only in a dream could I have imagined the friends I made in New Mexico, the power of a smile even in Japan, and the people all across the country that opened their hearts and homes. Sometimes it even seemed like I was in a dream. Eating chilies—*hot* chilies—in front of 700 people, wearing coats in June in Wyoming, and snow skidding in

Michigan were things this southerner had never done. These are things, places and people I could have only imagined if I had not lived my dream. As a high school student, I did not dream of being a national FFA officer. My goal was to run for chapter president and state office. I started college one year after serving as a state officer and I realized something was missing. I was suppressing a dream because I was afraid of failure. With some encouragement, I found the courage to try and to live my dream. Even if I had not been elected I would have known that I had lived my dream and taken my chances. Live your dreams, take your chances, dig down deep and find the courage to try.

As you keep the dream of FFA strong, dream for yourself. Create your dreams based on you, share your dreams with others to gain support and insight and live each day in pursuit of your dreams.

My year as a national officer is nearly complete. As I retire, there are people who have helped me live my dreams that deserve recognition. To my family, friends, FFA advisor, FFA chapter, 450,000 FFA members across the nation, and state staff—thank you for making my dreams come true.

I feel that I have been privileged to serve as a national officer during a very special time

in the life of our organization. This is our last convention in Kansas City, where it all began. We will always cherish the memories of this place and its legacy. We have seen the completion of our new National FFA Center in Indianapolis. It was built at a cost of \$6 million and is debt free. Magnificent dreams have come to fruition but the end of this convention will mark the beginning of living a new dream. Robert Kennedy, the young Attorney General of the United States in the 1960's expressed it well when he said, “Some men see things as they are and ask why, I dream things that never were and ask why not?”

We look forward to a future in Louisville crowned with unprecedeted growth and service. I have every confidence that the Blue and Gold will continue to shine even brighter.

As you return home I urge you to have the courage to create, share and live your dreams. Recognize that the challenge of life is in its risks. Dare to blaze new paths, walk where others have not ventured, sail the uncharted seas of life bravely, hitch your wagon to a star and let it soar. Make those 33 farm boys proud by the life you lead. Say to the world “I believe in the future” and “I will live my dreams.”



GO LIGHT YOUR WORLD

Shannon Wilcox, National FFA Secretary, Kenton, Ohio

There is nothing as exciting as getting a gift. Birthdays, holidays and special occasions all focus on exchanging and sharing gifts. Could you ever forget the energy you felt when you caught the first glimpse of the biggest, shiniest package on Christmas morning? The anticipation and agony of waiting to discover what was inside was killing you! That's no different from our lives. The excitement is about the gift inside. That is the great thing about each of us. When we look at each other we see many different packages. Only when we take the time to unwrap the package do we see the real gift inside each person.

A simple gift of a clear voice or the right lyrics can change a mood, setting, or even a life. This world is so fortunate to have the talents of many individuals making it a more harmonious place to live. Performers who discovered their talents, worked diligently, and had the faith to succeed in their field of dreams lift our hearts each day with the sound of music. Even a little voice can light up the world ...

*This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine
Let it shine
Let it shine*

The gift of song. It was a gift I discovered early in life that I wanted to share. It amazes me how a song can take you back in time, remind you of someone you once were, bring back a childhood dream. When I was four years old my lifelong goal was to be the next Barbara Mandrell. Every evening I performed a concert for my two biggest, and *only*, fans in our living room. All I needed was my microphone and my record player—and all of a sudden the lighting was perfect, the audience was wild, and I was the star. Song after song led me to a world where all dreams became realities. I could envision myself with a band, not a record player. When the applause would thunder from the record, it was for me and I would smile and wave to the imaginary crowd. My costumes were old dance recital outfits, complete with high heels and a cowboy hat. The imagination made the dream a reality for me, even though I was really just in my playroom with a pop bottle, a lot like this one. The highlight of my childhood arrived when I was five years old and Barbara Mandrell was playing at the Allen County Fair. I had a ticket and a mission. I was going to meet my hero.

Listening to "I Was Country When Country Wasn't Cool" and "Mountain Dew" made me more anxious to be on stage! I remember watching the sequins sparkle on her red and black pantsuit as she bent down to lift me on stage with her.

In front of thousands, Barbara hugged and greeted her small fan. I was absolutely mesmerized. She looked just like she did on television and on the album cover! Just as perfect and nice as I had imagined. I was fascinated. This famous person had discovered her gift and took time to share with the world!



Well, as you can tell, the dream of being Barbara Mandrell faded with time, and the concerts in the living room turned into performances in church and at weddings. But the gift stayed alive in high school. I attempted track, and discovered my friend Gwen was much better at it than I was. She had made it to state competition every year and she was sure to win. I was just in awe of her ability to fly through a hurdle obstacle, while I struggled to throw the discus a measly 31 yards. Track was not a talent I was blessed with. It's the gifts we discover within and the avenues we take that make the biggest difference.

Being a farm girl I was always playing outside with any bug or creature that I didn't squash first.

Every aspect of the outdoors caught my attention. I was especially fascinated with the butterfly. It spends so much time as a caterpillar, and works so hard at weaving a cocoon, does it ever realize what a beautiful reward God has in store for it? Spending half of your life as a worm can't be fun, dodging ornery kids with big

Nikes, hoping you survive long enough to find the limb sturdy enough to hold a cocoon. After waiting all winter, look at the outcome — a beautiful butterfly. So many times in our lives we forget to define what talents we possess, and are too busy wishing for the gifts of others.

The butterfly has the right idea. It knows its purpose and works toward that goal with one very important virtue — patience. You must determine your talent. Trial, error, and a whole lot of patience will reveal the answer to you. Some of you will be great public speakers, lawyers, or even scientists. It may not be the most recognized gift at this moment, but you will be able to do great things with it in the future.

The caterpillar spins a cocoon, a singer rehearses a song, and a person develops a gift. A great example of working to develop a gift comes to me through my favorite movie "Titanic." I found myself researching facts on "Titanic," reading books, and even using the line "Never let go!" in speeches! It was more than just

the making of a movie for director James Cameron. He went above and beyond the call of duty when producing this \$300 million project. Cameron developed his gift of creativity plus a love of history to bring the tragedy of April 14, 1912, to life. Countless hours of rehearsals, scene changes, script edits, and retakes made the film an Oscar-winning production. What we didn't hear about was the years of rewriting the script, the concept details, and the doubts in Cameron's mind.

James Cameron has a gift that he chose to use, and the willingness

Choose to make this life a brighter place. Light the world with your gift.

to never settle for average. He did all he could to be the best. Look at the result of Cameron's diligence. Dedication. Never settling for average. We should constantly strive to build our talents. Just as a singer rehearses and a caterpillar spins a cocoon, you must continue to build your best qualities. Give one more hour to an after school practice, one more day to a leadership conference, or one more minute to listen to a friend. Be dedicated to be your best by spinning your cocoon and developing your gifts.

Defining and developing gifts isn't enough — you have to use those gifts that God has given you. If you can imagine a cocoon dangling from a limb, then you may relate to the feeling of "the unknown." The most frightening and rewarding step you can take in life is taking a leap of faith. Whether it is stepping onto an airplane, moving to college, or giving your first speech, we must have faith in ourselves and faith in our abilities to succeed. So many times we miss opportunities and achievements because we have fear. What are we truly scared of? In many cases it is the unknown. Did fear capture the dreams of Albert Einstein, Neil Armstrong, or Thomas Edison? Don't be afraid to share your talents. Life is like a show-and-tell classroom. You have to get out of your chair, tell your story, and show the world what you are all about. In the book of James it states "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." To say you have faith in yourself and in a higher power is one thing, but to show you have faith is another. In his book "Sources of Strength," former President and past FFA member Jimmy Carter states the following: "Some of us get so proud of our works that we think that is all there is."

Defining the gifts we have and perfecting them is only complete when you have the faith to use your talents.

Just like the four-year-old girl who loved Barbara Mandrell, the beautiful caterpillar emerging from a cocoon and James

Cameron developing a talent, we have one thing in common — we are sharing gifts with others. Every day you share a gift you have been blessed with. I know my life has been given a very special gift this year — that gift is you. Watching your face shine with success when you received your state degree, sharing talks with you at camps, the smiles and hugs you have given me, and most of all — your glowing heart. Your hearts have burned like a candle and made my world a brighter place to live. Just like opening a package, you have opened your hearts to me and shared your gifts with me. Ladies and gentlemen, it's been Christmas all year long for me because of the gifts you have shared.

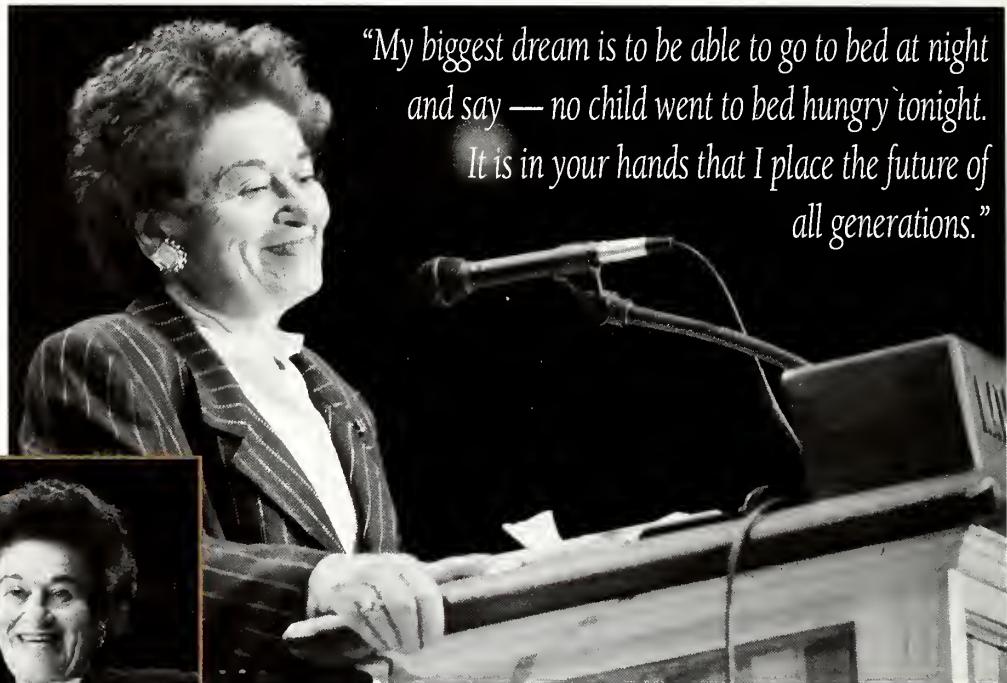
Some gifts come in big packages. Only you can fill this package with gifts, talents, and memories that will make you a complete person. Discover your gift, develop that gift, and simply have faith. Just like the caterpillar, you have no idea how beautiful your gift can become. Your gift can be the difference that impacts another's life forever. Choose to make this life a brighter place. Light the world with your gift.

*So, carry your candle
Run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless
Confused and torn*

*Carry your candle
For all to see it
Take your candle
Go light your world
Take your candle
Go light your world*



Convention Speakers

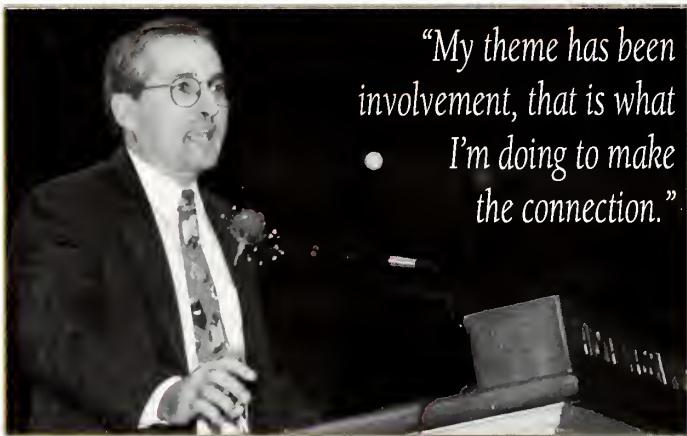


*"My biggest dream is to be able to go to bed at night
and say — no child went to bed hungry tonight.
It is in your hands that I place the future of
all generations."*

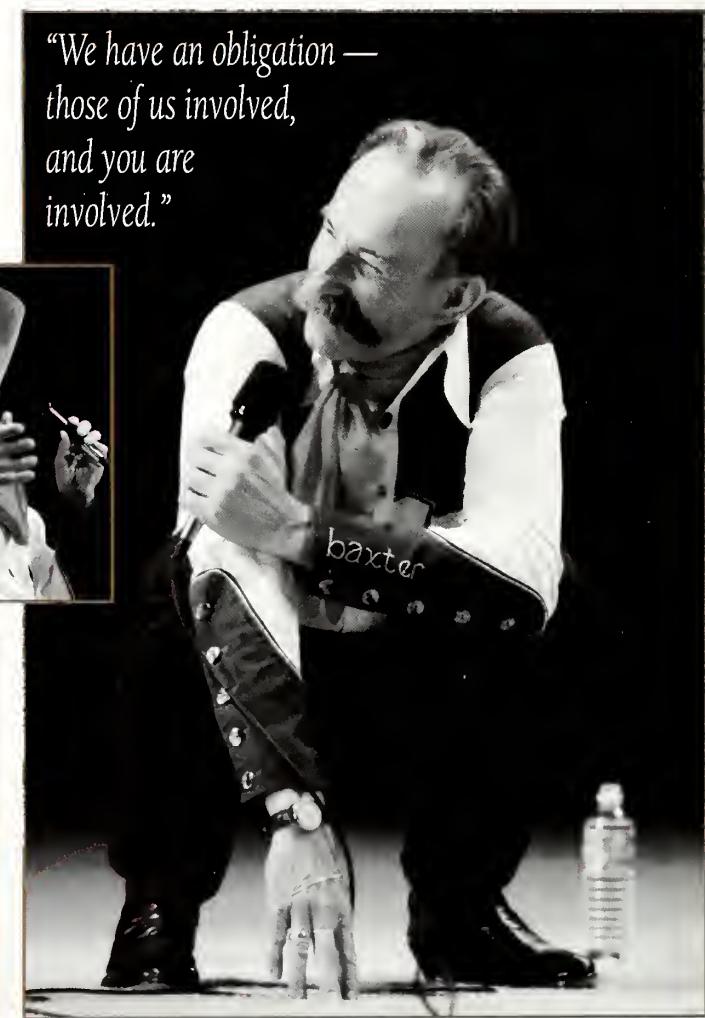
The convention participants were captivated by Gerda Klein's moving remarks about her life as a holocaust survivor.

Audiences young and old enjoyed the wacky antics of Cowboy Poet Baxter Black during the 1998 convention. Since 1982, Black has been rhyming his way into the national spotlight, and now stands as the best-selling cowboy poet in the world.

The 1998 Walt Disney Outstanding Teacher of the Year, Ray Chelewski, addressed the Convention session.

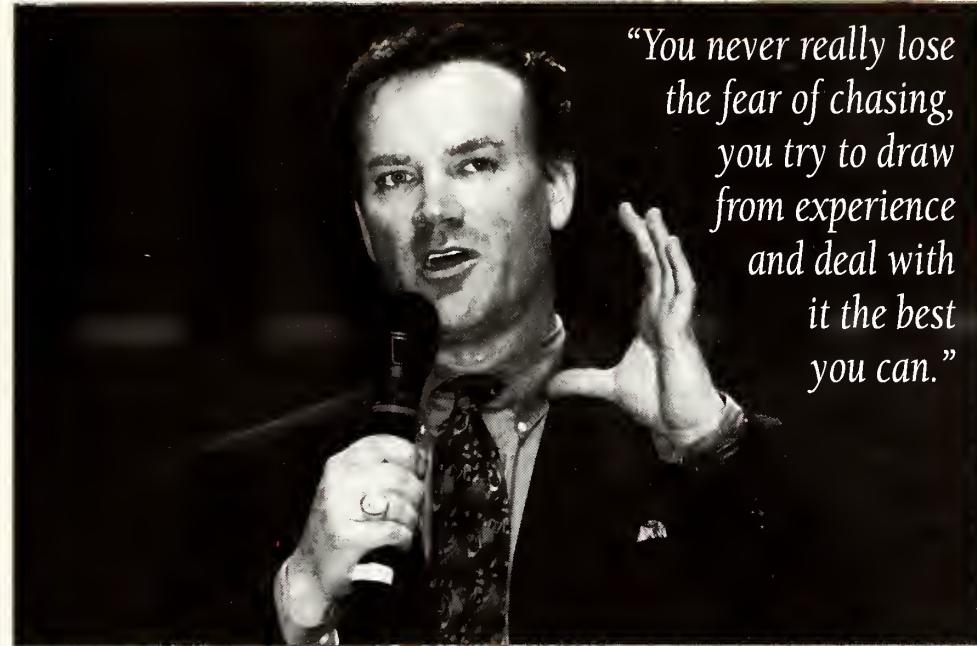


*"My theme has been involvement, that is what
• I'm doing to make
the connection."*



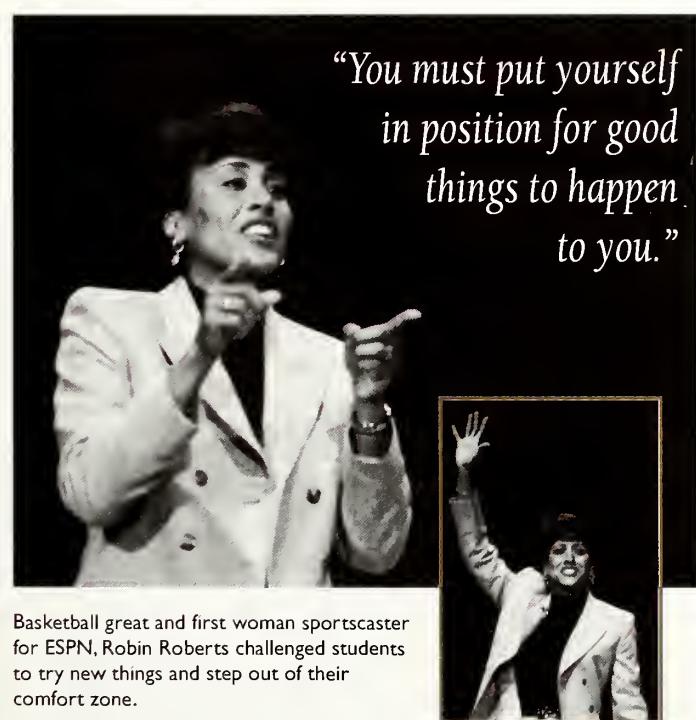
Convention Speakers

*"You never really lose
the fear of chasing,
you try to draw
from experience
and deal with
it the best
you can."*



Storm chaser Warren Faidley describes his scariest moment, encountering softball-sized hailstones while following a tornado in Texas.

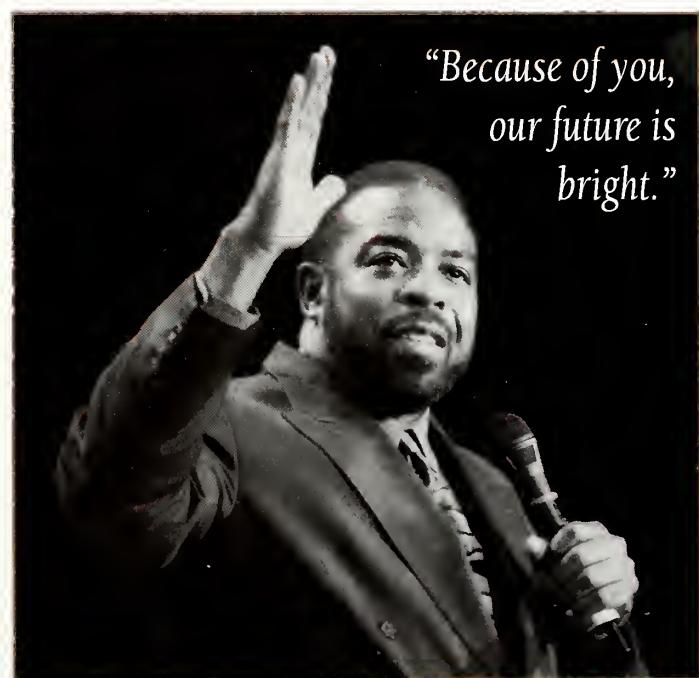
*"You must put yourself
in position for good
things to happen
to you."*



Basketball great and first woman sportscaster for ESPN, Robin Roberts challenged students to try new things and step out of their comfort zone.

The motivational address given by Les Brown impacted the minds of students as they started their convention experience on Thursday morning

*"Because of you,
our future is
bright."*



WHAT'S THIS LIFE FOR?

*Mark Wilburn, National FFA Vice President—Central Region
Laddonia, Mo.*

As a sophomore in the Van-Far FFA chapter I set a goal to become a chapter officer. I was scared to death when my advisor told me an interview process was the customary procedure for selecting our chapter officer team. For the first time in my life, I stood before a panel of my peers and answered question after question. Questions like: What's your SAE? What office do you want to hold? Who is the State FFA President? Those tricky seniors even asked us questions to surprise us like: Who won the World Series? What golfer won The Masters? How many steers were born last year in the US? I still remember answering that with some astronomical figure like three million, only to realize later that no steers are born, they're all bulls!

Beginning on November 9th of last year, across the street, on the second floor of the Marriott hotel, thirty-nine national officer candidates were asked many questions like: Is honesty ever situational? What is the importance of international trade to agriculture? How can the FFA combat the shortage of agricultural educators? What five things do you value most? Who is Mark Wilburn? Why do you want to be a national officer?

I've noticed throughout my FFA interview days that the questions have become more difficult. However, it's life's questions that are the most difficult to answer. What's this life for? A question that faces the shy greenhand, the confidant state officer, the teenage runaway, the high school drop out, the class valedictorian, even the millionaire business person asks "What's this life for?"

I have found three answers to this difficult question. What's my life for? My life is for valuing the people who surround me, it's for making the most of each day, and it's for enjoying each day I have been blessed to live. These are the answers that provide focus and strength for my life.

Throughout my short life and especially this year I have found this life is for valuing the people who surround us; our parents, guardians, teachers, friends, relatives, and even the perfect strangers who enter and exit our lives so quickly.

It has been difficult being away from family and friends this year. However, I have been blessed to spend the past 365 days with you, the FFA members. You have accepted me into your homes and schools; you have shared your life stories with me. I've seen you laugh, I've watched you cry. You've let me share in your successes and disappointments. In your eyes, I've seen you ask yourselves, "What's this life for?" Thank you for letting me be a part of your lives, and especially thank you for being a huge part of mine.

In the summer of 1990, I witnessed two individuals who had the wonderful ability to show appreciation and touch the lives of people around them. One was a seven year old little girl and the other a country music star. The Vandalia Area Fair, our local fair, is known for landing up-and-coming country music stars for the concerts. This particular entertainer had just burst on to the country music scene, and only two or three of his songs had been released on the radio.

The singer arrived at the fairgrounds early in the afternoon; it was a hot, muggy July day in the upper 90's, not the kind of day to be outside setting up band equipment. After goofing off and playing catch with some local youngsters, the singer was approached by a lady whose mom was ill and would be unable to attend the concert. The lady told him that her mom was his biggest fan and asked if he would autograph his CD. He quickly obliged and asked, "Where does she live?" After he personally delivered her the autographed CD, the country music star spent several hours with one of his biggest fans.

His actions truly demonstrated his value of people.

That night after the concert the entertainer stood, let me repeat that, he stood and signed autographs for over two hours, until a little girl just seven years old who just so happened to be my little sister Kayla, approached the singer and shyly asked, "Mr. Brooks, would you like to sit down?" Yes, my little sister found a seat for the one and only, Garth Brooks. Garth immediately let her jump in line, signed her shoes, and gave her free autographed pictures.

Kayla and Garth, two people who on a hot day in early July, answered one of life's questions for me. Garth's appreciation for his fans was obvious through his actions, and Kayla's admiration and appreciation for Garth shined through her random act of kindness.

I was fortunate to have many special people who inspired me and encouraged my dreams. Mom, Dad, Jay, Danny, Kayla, Grandma and Grandpa, Chrissy, and so many other people who have helped me—you know who you are; thank you for your love and support over the past twenty-one years. I love you all very much. And by the way, Mom and Dad, Happy Anniversary!

A simple "thank you" and "I love you" go a long way. Each day take time to share appreciation with friends and family. Tonight call someone back home and tell them what a great time you are having in Kansas City and then say thanks for helping me get here. Before leaving convention tell a fellow FFA member or your advisor thanks for all the fun times you've shared. As you return home, write an encouraging note for a family member and leave it on their pillow.

What's this life for? It's for valuing the people around you.

This life is also for making the most of each day. We can make each new day count by having the will to try the new. It's so easy to lay on the couch all day with the remote control watching soaps - my

personal favorite is Days of Our Lives - and watching WCW wrestling. It's so easy to sit in the back of the classroom where the teacher won't call on you. It's so easy to do the same routine day in and day out. Through new experiences and new challenges, you will be making the most of each day.

As a ten year old, I was faced with a new challenge—the pedal tractor pull at the local fair. I had never tried anything like this before. My family encouraged me to participate. I was hesitant at first but after learning the winner would take home five hundred cents, ok, a measly five dollars; I signed up! That would be five dollars I could spend in the carnival trying to win a goldfish or rabbit, you know something I really needed.

Let me tell you a little about myself as a ten year old. I stood a macho 4'2", weighed a whopping eighty-five pounds, soaking wet, in a three piece suit; and believe it or not, I was the oldest and biggest competitor in the pedal tractor pull. There was no way I could lose.

As you could see, my first and only appearance in a pedal tractor pull was a major disappointment, one that I am still teased about by my loving family. The sled moved a whole eight inches. I kept looking around, hoping that someone was playing a joke on me by holding the sled, but that wasn't the case. I watched as the smaller, but more experienced and better equipped pullers successfully pedaled out the gate for a full pull. In fact, that afternoon my little sister, Kayla, had a pull of 28 feet! At the time I was embarrassed, but after a night in the carnival on mom and dad's money, my frustrations were gone. To this day, I still blame it on the laws of physics. I was the tallest competitor in the pull. Therefore, my legs were the longest and it was the length of my legs that prevented me from applying the necessary and proper amount of force and leverage on the pedals. Ok, so you don't buy that! Maybe, physics had nothing to do with it. Maybe, I just wasn't meant to be a pedal tractor pulling champ.

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And you know what, that's just fine with me. From the pedal tractor pull, I learned how to accept failure at a young age. By trying new things and facing new challenges, you will truly be living life, not just going through the motions. Be willing to try public speaking, run for that office, experience the fun of a leadership conference, try out for the sports team, go bungee jumping, ride a bull, try sky diving, travel overseas with FFA, enter a career development event, audition for the National FFA band or chorus. Then your life will be full of exciting challenges and experiences.

What's this life for? It's for making the most of each day.

As we value the people who surround us and make the most of each day, it becomes much easier to enjoy life.

It bothers me to hear phrases like: "This is so boring", "What's the point?", "I don't care.", "I'm not having any fun." This gift of life should be treasured. I found out firsthand eight years ago how precious life really is. This year I have shared with some of you the tragedy my family endured not long ago. In the summer of 1990, my little brother and sister, two family friends, and myself traveled seven miles into Vandalia for some ice cream

On the way home, for some reason we took the county road instead of the highway. Just several miles outside of Vandalia, a car pulled out right in front of us, and we hit them head on at 60 mph. Our car buckled and came to rest in the ditch. The impact threw me out the back window; I toppled across the trunk and landed on the top bank of the ditch beside the car.

When I awoke, I had no idea where I was or what had just happened. The driver of our car was laying next to me and told me about the wreck. He also informed me that my little brother and sister were still in the car. In the meantime, Mom and Dad arrived on the scene and were horrified by what they saw.

On July 27, 1990, my little brother, Daniel Lee Wilburn, age 11 was pronounced dead on the scene. My little sister, Kayla Marie Wilburn, age 7, who just a month earlier had found the chair for Garth and beaten me in the pedal tractor pull, was flown by helicopter to the hospital. Dad traveled with her and en route she too, lost her fight for life.

In the matter of an hour, our lives had changed forever. Danny was to be my basketball teammate and I was looking forward to teaching Kayla the fundamentals of basketball. Our futures were meant to be together. I spent the week in the hospital and couldn't even attend their funeral; no chance to say goodbye. At first I was very angered and mad at the world and God for doing this to my family. After four days of frustration, of laying on my back unable to move; I began to realize this pity party, this negativity wasn't getting myself or my family anywhere.

That night I lay awake as my hospital roommate received painful treatments for his cystic fibrosis. I realized then that I had a chance of full recovery, his chances were much less.

On the fourth morning, I was determined to change my attitude.

I woke up with a smile on my face and some strength in my soul. I knew this was the day to begin enjoying life once again. First, I wanted to see a smile on the face of my family so I began to plot my plan. I had this really cool machine that gauged my breathing. I realized as you inhale, the line moved up and as you exhale, the line moved down. I realized that you could spell words with the monitor if you timed your breaths just right. I tried my initials. M..... W..... I would tell mom and dad, "Look, my initials!" They weren't too impressed, but it did bring a smile to their faces.

On the fifth day, I stared at my legs for a while because I had been unable to move them. Two vertebrae in my back had been compressed together and the strength just wasn't there. I listened

as the doctors whispered to my parents, "Your son might not walk again." I heard every word they said, but I was determined to prove them wrong. That very afternoon I raised my right leg just six inches off the hospital bed. It took all of my energy. It was a small but great victory, and a huge step to walking again. The next day I was sitting up and actually used the bathroom for the first time, those bedpans just don't cut it!

On the seventh day, I was wheeled down to the rehabilitation room where I experienced the greatest victory, the sweetest success of my young life-learning to walk again. I took thirty tiny, yet huge steps. As I returned home, this brace supported my back for the following three months. At first, it was a hindrance, a spur in my side that I didn't want nor ask for. Once again I had to deal with the challenge and remain positive. After those three months, I stepped back onto the basketball court wearing the black and gold of the Van-Far Indians and was fully ready to play. It felt so good to prove those doctors wrong.

I realize that this miracle couldn't have happened without the support of a gracious God - yeah, go ahead and give God a hand - the love and prayers of my family and friends, and the touch of my two angels, Danny and Kayla. I also believe that the smile I experienced and the positive energy I felt on that fourth day in the hospital started me toward a complete recovery. I had to make a conscious effort to enjoy life again.

It's been debated whether your childhood, your teens, college years, working years, or retirement should be called the time of your life. I think every minute of every day should be the best time you can possibly have because after all, there are no guarantees on how much time you or I have.

What's this life for? It's for enjoying the precious time we have been given.

This year has been amazing, definitely a gift from God. I will

never forget my inspiring experiences with you, the FFA members. You have answered for me a question many people are asking: "What's wrong with these kids today?" I say to anyone who questions our generation, "Spend a day with an FFA chapter, attend a state FFA convention, listen to the proud words of a greenhand delivering the FFA creed, watch a state officer team serving as role models for younger members, witness a patriotic flag raising by hundreds of leaders dressed in the blue and gold, attend the funeral of a young person whose classmates pay their respects dressed in official dress, and listen during opening ceremonies of national convention as ten thousand FFA members stand and respond with purpose and conviction to the question "FFA members, why are we here?" Witness these events and your questions will be answered, your doubts removed. There's a lot right with our generation, it's present right here in the National FFA Organization!

As we leave this convention and return home, we will continue to ask ourselves many questions. Why am I here? What choices should I make? What's my life for? Tough questions to answer, but questions that need answers. You have helped me find my answers.

What's this life for? It's for valuing the people who surround you. Say thank you and I love you more often. Spend an extra hour with your friends and family.

What's this life for? It's for making the most of each day by facing new experiences, accepting new challenges.

What's this life for? It's for enjoying the time we have been given. Smile more, laugh more, hug more, have fun. You have the power to choose your attitude. Don't let life get you down.

And now I ask you, what's your life for? The answer lies within you. May the good Lord guide you to your answers. God bless you all, thank you.

GET UP, GET OUT, GET GOING!

Dana Fisher, National FFA Vice President—Eastern Region
Maurertown, Va.

A typical high school day. We've all done it. We sit in class and dream of what could be the greatest moments of our lives. I found myself dreaming of playing baseball and what it would be like to hit the game-winning home run. Anyone who has played baseball or softball has dreamed about this situation: bottom of the ninth inning with two outs, and the score tied. You see yourself standing in the batter's box as the pitcher throws the ball. You clinch the bat just a little bit tighter and swing with all of your might. You hear the crack of the bat, and watch as the ball soars over the outfield wall. You are the hero of the game. I played two years of baseball, waiting for that moment, and guess what. It never happened.

I decided to switch my focus to a different sport. I tried basketball, and just like anyone else, I saw myself slamming the ball through the rim for the final and game winning score. Unfortunately, the laws of physics were against me, and I never did quite reach the 10-foot high rim. In academics, I could see myself acing math tests, book reports, and essays. In the seventh grade, when I started in FFA, my dreams shifted to being the greatest speaker, the best agricultural salesperson, and the most excellent ag mechanic of all time. I wanted fame, fortune, and recognition nationwide. I dreamed of being the Michael Jordan of speaking, the Mark McGwire of ag sales, and the Richard Petty of ag mechanics. I wanted to be a national public speaking or proficiency winner. I believed that the moment I was recognized for one big accomplishment would be the greatest day of my life. We've all had that feeling.

Almost one year ago one of my dreams came true as my name was

called to serve as your eastern region vice president. At that moment I felt like I was on top of the world. I thought being elected to national office was the greatest moment of my life. In the past year I have come to realize this single moment was not what really mattered. Rather it was the culmination of many moments that others never recognized that made the moment so special.

I'm not saying that we shouldn't dream, or that we shouldn't set high goals. But, just wanting to hit a baseball out of the park, or dreaming of being a national public speaking winner or proficiency finalist will not get you anywhere. You have to get up, get out, and get going. You have to stop simply dreaming and get up to identify and accomplish the small steps toward your goals. You have to get out and find those people around you who can help you accomplish great things, and you have to get going by creating a cycle of success, which will present opportunities that you never thought were possible.

First you must get up to identify and accomplish small steps toward your goals. Many times our dreams seem too big to handle, but if we break them down into smaller tasks, they become easier to achieve.

When I was in first grade I was definitely not the top student in my class. I would only do as much as I needed to get by. Our elementary school grading scale included "O" for outstanding, "S" for satisfactory, "N" for not satisfactory, and "U" for unusually bad! Spelling was usually the "N" category for me. I always thought it would be nice to do better, and I dreamed of getting a top grade, but I never knew how to get one, and an "O" seemed so hard to get. I never changed my routine, until one

day when my teacher did something I thought was pretty strange.

I came home and told Mom, "I don't know what my teacher was thinking, but she put my N backwards!" Mom looked at my test and said "Dana, that's not an N, that's a U." Needless to say, Mom and Dad were not very happy. That night, we started studying for the next test. Every night for a week, we studied. I

who dreamed of having great moments. Some are receiving the American FFA Degree; others are national Career Development Event winners. These members are some of the best that our organization has to offer; yet their greatest moments are not occurring as they receive their awards on stage. Their greatest moments have occurred throughout their FFA careers.

Get up and stop dreaming about what could happen, and start identifying and accomplishing the small steps that will make your dreams a reality.

would write the words over and over, up to 20 or 30 times. I'd take practice tests with Mom. I would use the words in my normal conversation, and spell them out in my head. "I want a cat...k...a..." I wanted to improve until I got the top grade, an "O." My parents and I kept working, week after week, until finally, my teacher handed back my paper and on top was a big round "O!" I was so excited to show Mom and Dad my grade, but just seeing that grade on my paper is not what made that moment special. The truly great moments came when I made the decision to improve, by making small steps toward my goal.

I spent over an hour each night preparing for my next test. My great moments of success had not been public shows, but instead they were private events. It's the events that others never see that allow the spectacular to happen.

During the past three days, we have seen those FFA members who have proven they are outstanding. We're recognizing those members

These student leaders chose to keep working on their SAE when everyone else was having fun. They chose to stay after school to study for a Career Development Event, or they chose to invest a little more money than most people thought was wise. In making these choices, they accomplished the small steps that have led them to the stage. The awards these members are receiving are the result of their hard work on the small things.

If you want your dreams to come true, you must start with small steps. If you want to be a state winning public speaker, then start by speaking more in class, or trying the public speaking contest. If you want to be a national ag sales proficiency finalist, then get a job at a local business, or volunteer to help with school fundraisers. If you want to be a home run hitter, improve your grade in class, or just make some money, you must get up. Get up and stop dreaming about what could happen, and start identifying and accomplishing the

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small steps that will make your dreams a reality.

Once you have identified the small steps that will get you where you want to go, get out and find those people around you who can help you accomplish those dreams. No matter what you want to do, or where you want to go, you will need the help of others.

Close your eyes and imagine this situation. You are at school, and there is an all-school assembly. The assembly has been called to honor you for being the most successful person in your community. You are on stage with your principal, members of your district school board, and your family. Out in the crowd you see your friends, teachers, and neighbors. There are TV reporters and photographers as well. Your principal walks up to the microphone and describes your success. The crowd erupts into a thunderous applause just for you, as you accept your award.

Now, let's see what happens if we change that situation a little bit. You're still on stage, but let's take away your principal, the members of your school board, and your teachers. No big deal, you and your family are still on stage, hearing the applause. Now remove your family from the scene, and you are up on stage alone, but still with applause. Now take away everyone but your closest friends. There are probably only a few people left in the auditorium. Finally, your friends are gone too. It's just you standing on the stage in front of an empty auditorium.

It's not a great feeling is it? All of the people who probably helped you achieve success are gone. Your principal and teachers were the first to go. They are responsible for a great deal of the knowledge that you have. Then, your family was taken from the scene. They are the ones

who have given you the love, support and resources to grow as an individual. Next your community left. Your community has the power to lift your spirits by recognizing you for the things that you might not see as important. Finally, when your friends were taken from the scene, you were truly alone. There was no one there to listen to you. No one to help share in your success. No one to give you a hand.

If you want to be a great public speaker, a great salesperson, a great ball player, or a great leader, you need guidance to help you improve. You need the resources and insight that others can provide. Most importantly you simply need people to be there for support through the tough times that seem to come with success.

Your teachers, family, community and friends are vital to your accomplishments. They provide the resources, support and guidance necessary for success. If you want to accomplish great things you must get out and find the people that can help you succeed.

Once you get up and find the small steps to success, and you get out and find the people that can help you accomplish your goals, you must get going by creating a cycle of success that will present new opportunities you never thought were possible.

As you begin to get up and accomplish those small steps toward your goals, an amazing thing happens. You build confidence! This confidence then allows you to achieve other goals and reach new heights of achievement. This is a cycle of success, where each new accomplishment builds your confidence and allows you to achieve larger and greater tasks.

I started FFA as a seventh grader. At that age, I was an extremely shy person. All I wanted to do was go to

our state convention and throw water balloons from the dorm windows. Thanks to a couple of watchful FFA advisors, I never realized that goal, but my early years in FFA created some other interests.

I decided that I wanted to learn a more about woodworking and power tools. Make way for Dana the Tool Man! I started out with a simple wood sander, then I graduated to a belt sander, a circular saw, and finally over the course of five years I was using some of the largest equipment in the shop with ease. I built nail boxes, stools, potato bins, and bird feeders. I even helped with a few picnic tables and a hay wagon. These projects were great, but they were not much of a challenge for the experienced woodworker that I aspired to be. I set my sights on something a little more challenging. I decided to create a checkerboard. It took almost every skill that I had learned to that point, and some new ones as well. I spent hours cutting, sanding and gluing. The finished product was not nearly as large as a picnic table, but the work that went into my checkerboard far exceeded any project that I had done before. I would have to say that I accomplished my goal of being a pretty decent woodworker.

But you know, something really strange happened as I learned those woodworking skills. I didn't have much confidence in any of my abilities when I started, but as I became better and better in the shop, I became better and better in other activities as well.

As I worked in the shop I learned how to be a pretty good salesperson as well. I never had the confidence to sell anything to anyone before I stepped into that shop. I gained the confidence to try my hand at public speaking. I changed from a scared seventh grader who wouldn't talk in front of

a class of 20 people to someone who can speak in front of you today.

Confidence breeds confidence. I never intended to become someone who could speak on a stage, or someone who was comfortable selling what I believed in to others. I improved in those areas because as I accomplished the small steps toward becoming a good wood-worker, I gained the confidence to try new things. You never know how far you can go if you just get going by creating a cycle of success.

I wish that I could re-live those high school years. There are so many things that I could have done, so many places that I could have gone, and so many people that I could have met. If I had only known what to do to achieve my dreams. Don't make the same mistake that I did. I know you have dreams that seem out of reach. If you want to make them a reality, you need to stop simply dreaming, and get up to identify and achieve the small steps that you need to accomplish success. Get out and find the people who can help you accomplish great things, and get going by creating a cycle of success that will create new opportunities.

I have a task for you to accomplish. You can do it after this session, tonight before you go to bed, on your way home, or whenever you have a moment to think. I want you to think about a dream that you have, and identify the small steps that you need to take to make that dream a reality. Then make a list of the people you know that can help you accomplish that dream. Finally, once you get home, contact the people that can help you and put those small steps into action and start your cycle of success!

FFA members it's time for you to stop simply dreaming and *get up, get out, and get going!*

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW...

*Amber Miller, National FFA Vice President—Southern Region
Louisville, Ala.*

Moses Lake, Wash., February 2, 1996: 3 killed, 1 wounded

Bethel, Ark., February 19, 1997: 2 killed, 2 wounded

Pearl, Miss., October 1, 1997: 3 killed, 9 wounded

Paducah, Ky., December 1, 1997: 3 killed, 5 wounded

Jonesboro, Ark., March 24, 1998: 5 killed, 10 wounded

Edinboro, Pa., April 24, 1998: 1 killed, 3 wounded

Pomona, Calif., April 28, 1998: 2 killed

Fayetteville, Tenn., May 19, 1998: 1 killed

Springfield, Ore., May 21, 1998: 1 killed, 19 wounded

What is wrong with our world today when we cannot even go to school and feel safe? As a child, I remember going to school and feeling like I was in a safe place. Whether I was learning my ABC's or playing on the playground, nothing was going to harm me. As I entered high school, I learned of all the pressures facing us as teenagers such as drugs, alcohol, skipping school, or cheating on tests. In my high school of only 350, we had students who brought guns to school. Why? That was the only way they could feel important. That was the only way they felt they'd be liked. School violence and other pressures are very frightening. What does our world need to

make it a better place? Well, we don't need any more TV shows, clothes, or money. We don't need any more CD's, cars, or movies either. What the world needs now is love! A greater love for ourselves and a greater love for others.

Why is loving yourself so important? Part of the Roman culture was taking pride in themselves. In ancient times, the Latin word dignitas meant having a positive self-esteem. They understood it to mean that when you had respect for yourself, others would respect you in return. Just as the ancient Romans believed in dignitas, it's important that you accept yourself and develop positive self-esteem.

I think back to when I was an 8th grader just getting started in FFA. Many of you know that the Public Speaking Career Development Event was the main reason I joined. As I was preparing my speech for area competition, I was very nervous and had little confidence in myself. I would practice in front of the mirror day after day. My first line went like this:

"Imagine that you are on a spaceship, everything you need—food, clothing, and water is on that ship."

I would practice over and over again. I knew I would be competing against those who were much older than me, and I was very scared! The day finally came when we traveled to G.W. Long High School for the competition. As I met the other speakers, I became even more scared. I sat in my chair anxiously until it was finally my turn. Here I was, in front of the judges. I was

scared, but I said my speech just like I had practiced it in front of the mirror! When the results came back, I had placed second, which meant I got to advance on to district competition. After the results, several of the FFA advisors in the area talked to me about how much they enjoyed the speech and encouraged me to run for a district office. Although I went on to district public speaking to place fourth out of four contestants, I was able to develop confidence in myself. It is because of that experience and many more like it that allowed me to like myself enough to be able to stand in front of you today.

whatever I want. It helped me realize that I am important, and I can have goals that can be achieved. I hope you enjoyed your stay in Colorado. Sincerely, Renee

At the time of the workshop I had no idea that she needed confidence in herself. Her experience at the FFA workshop allowed her to feel needed and loved.

You know those times when we feel like no one likes us or needs us. It's tough! But it's up to you to overcome these feelings, and keep on going. For some, it may mean going to that FFA workshop to receive an extra boost. For others it

may mean having someone like an advisor, parent, or guardian telling them they are important. What does our world need now? Our world needs us to love ourselves and be happy with who we are. Why? Because when we like ourselves we can be a better student, a better citizen, a better friend. In

loving ourselves we gain the ability to share that love with others, and that's what the world needs now!

While all of us need to develop more positive self-esteem, it can be very challenging. We have people telling us from every direction that we are not good enough, smart enough, pretty enough, cute enough, or cool enough.

After I was at the Colorado convention this June, I received a letter from a student who attended one of the leadership workshops. She wrote...

Dear Amber, How's it going? Well, I am just writing to tell you how fun the workshop was. I still have my goal card, and I look at it everyday. Now I know that I can be

We need love for others! A Greek word for love is "agape" which is defined as *active goodwill*. Active goodwill is going out of your way to help another. One of my favorite verses says, "Love is patient, love is kind, love does not envy...love does not behave rudely." All of these are positive characteristics that can impact our world and make it a better place to live.

Several friends and I met a lady through church who lives in a veterans hospital that we visit once a week. Ms. Miriam has multiple



sclerosis and is confined to a bed most of the time. She always appreciates our visit and the small things we can do to help her such as watering her plant, playing cards with her, or doing her laundry. We don't tell her we love her, but rather we show her through active goodwill! After I leave the hospital, I feel good about myself. When you do good things for others, not only do you help them, you help yourself by creating positive self-esteem.

We all have opportunities to share love with others without ever saying it. It may be a smile, a good deed, a letter, an e-mail, or a kind word. What we tend to do is focus on things that make us happy, and we forget about helping people. Instead of always focusing on things such as a new shirt or new car to make us happy, why not try doing something for another person? People should make us happy, not things.

Two years ago on November 16th, I had a car accident. It was the Monday night after national convention, and I had just returned from Kansas City. Being a freshman in college can be very overwhelming, especially after missing an entire week of classes. I was very tired, but I headed out to relax and meet Daddy at Chili's for supper. It was raining and I approached a traffic light as it turned green. We probably were not going very fast at all, but I misjudged the distance of

the other car. You know what happened next—Bang!! The air bags popped out, I heard the horns blow, and all I could do was scream!

After I jumped out of the car, I realized what was going on only to see the front end of my new '96 Probe totally destroyed. My first thought was how mad my stepdad was going to be at me for wrecking the car. There were no major injuries; we were just badly shaken up. But the thoughts kept running through my head: what about the car? Over and over again: what about the car? I hurried inside to call so my daddy could know what happened and come for help. He wasn't even concerned about the car—he was concerned about me. As we called Mama and my stepdad, they were not concerned about the car: they were concerned about me, too. WHAT? All this time, I had focused on the new car being damaged. They were not concerned about the car. The car could be repaired or replaced, but I could never be. I learned a lesson that evening: focus on sharing your love with people, not material things.

There may be terrible things happening in many schools across the nation, but there are many positive things taking place as well. This year, so many of you have shown me "active goodwill." In Kentucky, I was able to hang out with the Apollo Chapter and even

eat at Moonlight BBQ. At the Colorado convention, the Peetz FFA Chapter adopted me as one of their own students. At the Florida convention, I was invited to dinner with Turkey Creek Middle School. At the Oklahoma camp, I was able to be a camper for a weekend. In Wisconsin, I was able to stay in the homes of state officers as we traveled for sectional leadership workshops. Traveling all over Southeast Missouri was also a treat. No matter where I have been this year, from Idaho to Puerto Rico, from Delaware to Ohio or New Mexico, from Minnesota or Nebraska to Virginia or Maryland, all of you have shown active goodwill this year. Even chapters in sweet home Alabama have welcomed me with open arms.

One example that made a lasting impression on my life was in January when Mark Wilburn and I were able to spend a week in the Miami-Dade County area. A highlight of the trip was watching the students from Turner Tech Academy as they presented a program for us. The program began with nine students carrying national flags. Each flag was from a different country and represented the nine nationalities in the academy. After they were in place, Diana recited the FFA Creed in Spanish, Alan in Thai, Elton in English, and Lynette did the creed in sign language. As I sat and watched this program, tears came into my eyes. I am thankful to be a part of an organization that unites diverse individuals. Seeing students from Venezuela, Brazil, Cuba, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Colombia, Argentina, and America in one school working together and sharing their active goodwill with those around them, caused me to realize that these FFA members had positive self-esteem and confidence in themselves. They chose to share this with others in their school to make theirs one of the top chapters in the state of Florida. The students at

Turner Tech have found what the world needs now—positive self-esteem and active goodwill.

Another favorite verse of mine says: "... Though I understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." We can try our best to stop school violence or fight against other pressures, but if we don't have love at the core of whatever we do, we have nothing.

What does our world need now? Our world needs people who can love themselves and share that love with others! FFA members and guests—you are what our world needs now! Our world needs love from people like you. Find a way that you can appreciate yourself more and then take that love and show it to the world. Start right here at this convention. Smile at someone as you exit this auditorium today. Compliment someone on a job well done. Introduce yourself to a new person. Hold the door open for someone passing through. As you go home, continue doing these little things. Help your family out with chores. Talk to the kid at school that always gets made fun of. It's these little things that will make a big difference.

I'm so thankful for the boosts of self-esteem and the love I've received from you this year. In fact, I've received so much that I know that there is enough love in this room to make a difference in our world. What the world needs now...is you!

A HERO IN DISGUISE

Cody Nash, National FFA Vice President—Western Region
Inez, Texas

They were fast riding, straight-shooting saviors of the range. They were honest and fair and lived by the code of the west. They were larger than life but they sure seemed real to me. I would ride along next to my cowboy heroes in front of our TV. Each of you know what I am talking about. Growing up we idolize our heroes. Fictional or realistic, they have a larger impact on our lives than we realize.

You see, my heroes have always been cowboys. Not just the hat-wearing, horse-riding, rope-swinging kind, but the individuals who possessed qualities like bravery, adventure, discipline, dignity, pride in self and country, and a love for the creator. As we approach the future and look beyond our childhood days I wonder, "Who will be the heroes of tomorrow?" At our age we still need to look for heroes and we need to learn from them, but more importantly we need to be heroes to each other.

Webster says heroes are individuals who are admired for achievement or qualities. So who qualifies? Movie stars, athletes, entertainers—today anybody who gets on TV thinks they are a hero! But there is more! Mamas and daddies, grandparents and siblings, teachers, people in our communities, an FFA member that we just met—anyone we admire for his or her achievements or qualities can be our hero. Each of you will choose your own heroes and they will probably be different than mine. I think it is important for you to find a hero. You may ask, "Why do I need a

hero?" Well, heroes bring out the best in us, they set an example, give us hope or courage, and remind us of our better and braver selves.

So how do we find these heroes? I suggest to you that we don't always find them. Sometimes they find us. I believe that God places people in our presence so that we may learn from them. I remember not too long ago walking into ag class the first day of my freshman year wondering who this Mr. Sullins fellow was. And now here I am six years later still wondering what he saw in me. Did my ag teacher, Mr. Sullins, set an example? Yep! Did he give me courage and hope when I didn't think I could go any further? Yep. Mr. Sullins, you're my hero. I have others too, like my mom and dad, my friend Jack, past FFA officers. It's okay for us to have more than one hero—we can look up to different people for different things. *The key is to find a hero.* Sometimes we have to look past what a person has or does to see the hero inside. This year I learned that we can't judge people by their title or their possessions. People come in all shapes and sizes—so do heroes. I have met a lot of fancy

people, elected officials, some well-respected folks, but I also took notice of the homeless and the lost; oddly enough, I was inspired by both.

If you spend enough time with a person you can find some qualities that you admire.

We need to spend time with our heroes to learn how they do the things we admire. Often times we get nervous and talk ourselves out of taking the steps to learn more about them. We tell ourselves, "I could never do that, they don't have time for me." I remember my first state convention. After Curtis Childers give his speech on stage I said to my chapter, "I want to meet that guy." They all laughed, so I got up out of my chair and walked down to the back stage area and waited for him to walk by. When I saw him I said, "Hey Curtis, I am Cody," and we struck up a conversation. *Don't be afraid to get to know your heroes. That is how you learn from them.*

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to spend a moment with one of your famous heroes? Not your parents or someone you have grown up with, but one of those fairytale heroes that you have only read about. Who would you talk to? Michael Jordan, Joe Montana, Eleanor Roosevelt, Mother Theresa, George Strait?

While traveling, I have been inspired most by watching you be heroes to each other. From state conventions to summer camps, you support each other, give each other hope and courage, and push each other to be the best.

I have a special connection with one of my cowboy heroes. Back in the early 1900's there was a fellow from Oklahoma that could twirl a rope better than any one else. Will Rogers was a rancher's kid but couldn't stand ranch life. So he packed up and traveled the world over, and spun his rope everywhere he went. Along with twirling a rope he had a knack for saying what most people thought, but couldn't find the words for. He became such a spokesperson for agriculture during The Depression, that he was called upon by the President of the United States to deliver a radio address to boost the morale of our country. Since I have swung a rope since I was about three years old, I am fascinated with his life story. I have studied, not only his rope tricks but the way he helped other people and the image that he portrayed. I have learned that no matter where he went he was himself; on the stage in New York or talking to farmers at a county fair. Will knew that being a hero didn't mean being perfect, it meant being real. Many times this year I have found myself searching for answers to tough questions.

Sometimes I would just stand around and spin my rope and think about what Will might say if I asked him...

What is it like for all of those people to look up to you?

That is not something you should worry about, because if you treat everyone equally then you don't have to worry about anyone looking up or down at you.

Retiring Address

Do you ever fear that you'll let them down?

Sure enough, nobody I have ever met was perfect. You just got to do the best you can every chance you get. It is more important to do right by your own heart.

Do you have to sacrifice much to be a hero?

Not as much as you do to be a politician. See, them fellers gotta ask people to look up to them and later on prove it was a good idea. Me I just be myself. You do have to make some tough choices though.

What is it like when you're all alone?

Now I been by myself a time or too, but I have never been alone completely.

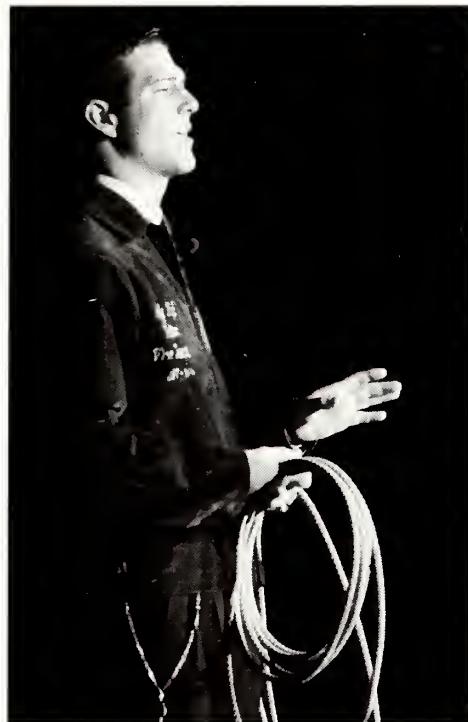
Really why is that?

I know the Lord and He is right here inside my heart. I learned a long time ago that no person place or thing can make us happy—we gotta choose to do that for ourselves. Same goes for being alone. It's kind of like being your own best friend.

What motivates the hero?

I know what motivates me—guess you'd have to ask yourself that question.

It may sound weird but sometimes I feel like my heroes are right here with me! Hopefully when you face a challenge or have tough questions to answer you can ask yourself "What would my hero do?" If you have found someone that you admire and look up to, you can almost hear their answer in your mind. Sometimes the split second that it takes to ask yourself that question can mean the difference between right and wrong. I would be willing to bet that somewhere, someone looks up to you—



maybe a brother or a sister, a younger FFA member or a friend at school. When they stop and ask themselves that question, you're the hero in their mind.

Being a hero shouldn't change you as a person, but knowing that someone else will be affected by your words and actions should affect the choices you make. Being a hero means loving other people enough to make the right choices. At our age we have some tough choices to make—from the people we hang out with to what we do on Friday nights. All of us here today made a really good choice to be involved in the FFA. By serving this year and making choices that affect so many people, I remember John 13:34 says, "Love one another as I have loved you."

It is kind of funny in today's world that everyone expects to get as much as they give. So I challenge you to be different when it comes to loving people and being a hero. Love others

because they are human. Ask yourself this question, "If I don't, who will?" Next time you see a classmate that doesn't fit in, include them into your group, go out of your way to help someone in need or just be a true friend. God has given each of us the gift we need to be a hero to someone, somewhere.

In FFA you can find a hero, get to know that hero and learn from them, but more importantly you can be a hero. While traveling, I have been inspired most by watching you be heroes to each other. From state conventions to summer camps, you support each other, give each other hope and courage, and push each other to be the best. I was so inspired after one convention that I wrote a short poem I call "The Hero." I would like to share it with all of you.

*The knight in shining armor
A hero in disguise
The one with all the answers
In someone else's eyes.*

*A solid man with hair cut square
And high above the collar
A bum in rags
On the street without a dime
Can make a difference to another
soul
At any place and time.*

*See most folks need a hero
Though they may not know just
whom.
Sometimes you may not see it but
The one they need is you.*

*Be dashing and daring
Go crashing and caring
Able and willing
Don't think twice about giving
Your hand, your love, or your
smile.*

*To all that you meet be thoughtful
and sweet.
But take special time just for kids
on your way.
Cause of all them are looking.
They may need a hero
If just for a day.*

*See, to them you are perfect
Yet reachable and true.
When they face a challenge or
fumble with strife
They will think of someone and
that someone will be you—
their hero.
'Cause you made a difference in
their life!*

FFA members, guests, friends—for six years you have made a difference in my life and for that I give you a big cowboy thank you. With every speech I gave and each time I had the chance, I told you how I caught the FFA spirit. And now as I prepare to walk away there is only one thing left to say. When I stop for just a moment and look into your eyes, I see a million heroes...heroes in disguise.

100-PERCENT STATES

FFA is growing, and it is due in large part to the continued efforts of states to enroll every agricultural education student in FFA. Four states accomplished that goal, and were recognized for their efforts. In addition, 31 states increased their FFA membership, a testament to the hard work of chapter advisors, state staff and alumni who work to expand young people's opportunities for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. A successful program is comprised of quality classroom/laboratory instruction; FFA, which provides the leadership and recognition component; and a Supervised Agricultural Experience career preparation segment. These characteristics put agricultural education at the forefront of learning-by-doing education.

100% FFA MEMBERSHIP

California
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma

INCREASED MEMBERSHIP STATES

Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
Guam
Hawaii
Iowa
Illinois
Indiana
Kansas
Louisiana

Massachusetts
Maryland
Maine
Minnesota
Missouri
Rota - Mariana Islands
Montana
Nebraska
New Hampshire
New Mexico
New York
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
Puerto Rico
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Virgin Islands
Washington



Representative from the Ohio association happily accept recognition for achieving 100-percent membership in their states.

BLUE & GOLD AWARDS

Since 1928, hundreds of thousands of FFA members have gathered in Kansas City to celebrate their achievements and grow as leaders. During this historic year, FFA saluted 71 years of generous support of the national FFA convention by the City of Kansas City. FFA recognized the exemplary service of six organizations and three individuals who have been instrumental in the success of the convention for many years. Their leadership and commitment enhanced the effectiveness of the convention in meeting its mission—positively impacting the lives of young people. For their efforts, each individual and organization received the National FFA Organization's Blue and Gold award, the highest honor FFA can bestow.

INDIVIDUALS

George Eib of Kansas City, Mo., played an instrumental role in the development of the National Floriculture, Forestry and Nursery/Landscape Career Development Events. As FFA's key contact for the Kansas City Parks and Recreation system, his influence and involvement with these events has spanned three decades.

Harry Cleberg of Kansas City, Mo., was instrumental in the development of the Kansas City Coalition in 1994. Since then, this group of key Kansas City businesses has invested over \$1.3 million in support of the FFA convention. Cleberg also served as the 1996 Foundation Sponsors' Board Chairman, achieving a record-breaking level of support to support FFA's youth.

Jim Leathers of Overland Park, Kan., has invested 31 years of his personal and professional career supporting the convention as chair of the Kansas City Advisory Committee. Under his leader-

ship, this committee has provided key resources and guidance needed to ensure the success of the convention.

Swope Park has supported the national convention by serving as the host location for the National Floriculture, Forestry and Nursery Landscape Career Development Events. This jewel of Kansas City has provided an excellent facility for students to compete in these national events.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Kansas City Police Department has annually provided a safe convention atmosphere for FFA members. The watchful eye of the Kansas City police officers has been a valuable assurance to teachers and staff in this big city environment.

The American Red Cross, Greater Kansas City Chapter has been the first line of emergency health service to the convention attendees for many years. From bandaging scrapes and curing headaches to assisting



The national FFA officers present Kansas City officials with the Blue & Gold Award in appreciation of 71 years of friendship and support.

with emergency situations, the staff of the American Red Cross has helped many FFA members and guests in need.

The American Royal Livestock and Horse Show and Rodeo has played many important roles vital to the success of the convention. From serving as the location for the National FFA Dairy, Horse and Livestock Career Development Events to providing an entertainment venue in which students and teachers from around the U.S. can interact, the American Royal has been a valued Kansas City partner in developing future agricultural leaders.

The Kansas City Chamber of Commerce has for more than 35 years assisted the convention staff in establishing tour sites that add to the convention's educational value. The Chamber was also instrumental in helping FFA establish key links within the community through their part in preparing invitations for the "Welcome to Kansas City Luncheon." FFA salutes the

Chamber for helping build bridges between the convention attendees and the businesses of Kansas City.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Kansas City has served as FFA's link to and advocate within the Kansas City hospitality community. From coordinating the housing process to sponsoring the Career Show Exhibitor reception, the Convention and Visitors Bureau has used its network and influence to enhance each convention attendee's experience.



VIP CITATION

FFA has a host of very important people whose actions speak volumes about their dedication to young people. Some have made FFA their life's work; others have demonstrated a history of volunteering time and effort toward the organization. These people have made a positive impact in young people's lives through their commitment to service. FFA showed its gratitude by recognizing this special group on stage Thursday afternoon, and presented each individual with a plaque.

James Ash of Alma, W. Va., has assisted with numerous regional and national FFA activities, often providing travel and supervision for our officers and teams. Since his retirement in 1989, he continues to be actively involved in agricultural education and FFA on all levels.

Wayne L. Beck of Johnston, Iowa, served as a member of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board from 1993-1998, and as chairman in 1997. Beck is vice president of supply management at Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Al Benz of Raytown, Mo., has helped conduct the National Floriculture Career Development Event for the past 18 years. Benz currently works for Inspiration Floral and Gift Company.

Terry Baker of Jefferson City, Mo., has been involved with the National FFA Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event since 1969. Baker is the public relations director for the Missouri Farm Bureau.

Dean L. Byerly of Fort Atkinson, Iowa, served on the National FFA Ag Mechanics Career Event Committee from 1973-1998. Byerly is an instructor of agriculture power mechanics technology at Northeast Iowa Community College.

John E. Cooper of Ozark, Mo., was the only person to select the dairy cattle for the National Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event since its inception at the American Royal. Cooper, now retired, formerly owned and operated a 1,200 acre dairy and beef operation.

Ed Czerwien of St. Joseph, Mo., hosts the National Collegiate Livestock Contest and has been instrumental in securing livestock for the competition for over 10 years. Czerwien is president and manager of St. Joseph Stockyards.

Delmer L. Dalton of Lexington, Ky., served in State Department of Education for 24 years. Dalton is currently branch manager of agricultural education at Kentucky Department of Education.

Denise DeJulio of Kansas City, Mo., has supported the convention for a number of years by assisting with hotel and transportation arrangements for advisors and convention guests. DeJulio is a sales representative for the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Dr. Terry Dockerty of Chicago, Ill., has been involved as either a judge or a superintendent in the National Meats Career Development Event for more than five years. Dr. Dockerty is a faculty member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Joe Farrell of Hill City, Kan., served on the Reinventing Ag Education 2020 Committee and played a key role in developing curriculum for agriscience nationwide. Farrell is an agricultural education and agricultural science teacher at Hill City High School.

Carl Hubbell, Jim Hutchinson and Sheila Pannell of Kansas City, Mo., of Hubbell Tyner have decorated the convention for years, and have annually gone above and beyond the required level of service during convention.

Allan R. Johnson of Carol Stream, Ill., president of Farm Progress Companies, Inc., joined the National FFA Sponsors' Board in 1994. He served as chairman of the National FFA Foundation in 1996 during which the Foundation raised a record level of funds.

Bob Jorgensen of Omaha, Neb., has been an official with the National Livestock Career Development Event for over 20 years. Jorgensen is the officer in charge of grading and reporting at the Livestock Exchange Building.

Dr. James Key of Stillwater, Okla., has been a professor of agricultural education at Oklahoma State University for 29 years. His role in helping coordinate activities for the State FFA Interscholastics, and cooperation in working with state staff will be greatly missed as he retires from the profession this year.

Andrew Klapis of Raytown, Mo., has been a key member of the National FFA Organization's Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event Committee since its inception. Prior to that, he was a member of the Horticulture Contest Committee. Klapis is now retired.

Henry Kupfer of Kansas City, Mo., has been involved with the National Floriculture Career Development Event for more than five years.

Larry Lackamp of Blue Springs, Mo., has been involved as either a judge or a superintendent in the National Forestry Career Development Event since its beginning. Lackamp is on staff at the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Dale Lightfoot of Kansas City, Mo., has been the national FFA convention photographer for 27 years. Lightfoot is the owner of Lightfoot Photography.

Dr. Richard Lindhardt of Columbia, Mo., has been involved as a judge and committee member for the National Agricultural Mechanics Contest Committee. Lindhardt is an associate professor of agricultural education at the University of Missouri.



In appreciation of their overwhelming generosity, the FFA honored these 22 individuals with VIP Citations. Many of the recipients were long-time Kansas City supporters. (above photo picture #1) Front Row: Larry Lackamp; James Taylor; Dick Snedden; John E. Shirley; Jerry Monterastelli. Back Row: Richard Linhardt; Wayne Beck; Dr. James P. Key; Allan R. Johnson; Henry Kupfer; Delmer L. Dalton.

(above photo picture #2) Front Row: Mary Lee Wineinger; Sheila Pannell; Denise DeJulio; Dean L. Byerly; James Ash. Back Row: Earl Wineinger; Jim Hutchinson; Joe Farrell; Dr. Terry Dockerty; Bob Nash; John E. Cooper.

Dr. Bill Long of Nacogdoches, Texas, served as a member of the National Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event from 1979 through 1997. He also judged regional and national FFA proficiency awards and taught agricultural education for over 20 years.

Phil McFall of St. Joseph, Mo., has judged the National FFA Career Development Event in livestock for 10 years. McFall is the officer in charge of grading and reporting livestock and crops at the Livestock Exchange Building.

Jerry Monterastelli of Blue Springs, Mo., has been involved as either a judge or a superintendent in the National Forestry Career Development Event since it began. He is currently working as an urban forester.

Bob Nash of Kansas City, Mo., is the event coordinator at the Kansas City Convention Center, and has provided time and influence toward the success of the national FFA convention by allowing the organization maximum use of the Kansas City Convention Center.

Paulette Orth of Kansas City, Mo., has been FFA's key contact for the Career Development Events for the past several years, and has provided many services to the contestants and judges. Orth is the administrative support for the American Royal.

Dr. David E. Schafer of Manhattan, Kan., has been a primary supporter of the Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event. Dr. Schafer is an extension meat specialist at Kansas State University.

John E. Shirley of Manhattan, Kan., has served as co-official judge for the National Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event since 1989. He also serves as a member on the Dairy Cattle Career Development Event Advisory Committee. Shirley is a professor of animal science at Kansas State University.

Dick Snedden of Gladstone, Mo., has served as a core member of the Kansas City Advisory Committee for many years. In that role he has provided support and guidance and was directly responsible for the commemorative medallions.

Dr. Richard Stinson of University Park, Pa., authored the high school horticulture textbook series that has been a dominate national teacher resource. Even though he retired in 1990, he remains active with national FFA programs.

Jim Taylor of Kansas City, Mo., has helped foster the relationship between FFA and the American Royal. From Career Development Event assistance to providing a venue to highlight the talent of the FFA Band and Chorus, Taylor believes in and supports the mission of the national FFA convention.

Earl and Mary Lee Wineinger of Marion, Mo., have managed the backstage activities at the national FFA convention for over 12 years.

Honorary FFA Degrees

HONORARY FFA DEGREES

FA's strength comes not only from its nearly 450,000 members, but from its countless supporters across the country. Agriculture teachers who put in evenings, weekends and holidays to benefit their students; business owners who contribute funds and services to FFA; school and government officials who support agricultural education programming; college educators, and state and national FFA staff who work directly with the organization—these are people who contribute to FFA's deep, rich soil of programs necessary to grow young leaders in agriculture.

The Honorary American FFA Degree is bestowed upon such individuals, to thank them for their continued support of FFA and agricultural education. Each honoree was congratulated on stage Friday morning as they received their plaque from the national officers.

FFA SUPPORTERS

ALABAMA: Ed Dickinson, Birmingham

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OHIO: Carol Ogden, Hillsboro

OKLAHOMA: David Holcombe, Jay; Paul Hummer, Stillwater; William Luce, Stillwater; Bobbie Steenbergen, Oklahoma City

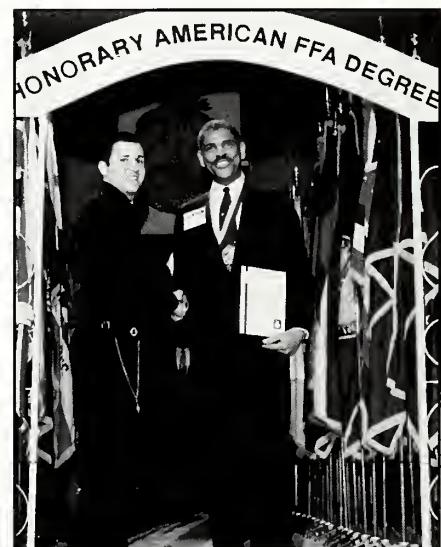
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Honorary FFA Degrees

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SOUTH DAKOTA: Charles Gregg, Spencer

TEXAS: Marilyn Boehm, Taylor; Emzy Boehm, Taylor

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The National FFA Organization has accommodated thousands of FFA members on international programs for over 50 years. Since the 1940s, FFA members have had life-changing experiences in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, Australia and the former Soviet Union, all made available through the National FFA.

International experiences through FFA often lead to increased self-confidence and an enhanced sense of career direction. Many past international participants have added a foreign language to their university studies or an international component to their college major as a result of overseas travel. Others have incorporated procedures they learned overseas into their agricultural operations back home. Every student returns home with an expanded knowledge of career possibilities and a renewed sense of direction.

National FFA offers a wide variety of international experiences suited to diverse interests and needs. Highly structured programs for high school members age 16 and up are offered through the Introduction to European Agriculture Seminar, Mexican Agriculture Work/Study Program, or the Australia Homestay Program. For members 18-24 years old, FFA offers longer-term internship experiences on farms in other countries, or even working at U.S. Embassies for the Foreign Agricultural Service of USDA. FFA also offers a one-month experience at Earth College in Costa Rica, with an intensive Spanish-language school component. Earth College provides FFA



Ria Liedtke and Franziska Schimke (l to r), participants of the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) enjoy a bite to eat at their reunion luncheon in Kansas City.

members a distinct opportunity to learn about tropical agriculture and environmental issues, as well as gain college credit in Spanish.

This year, the FFA was pleased to expand the international presence at convention. Some of the activities offered to FFA members were:

International Dinner – Anyone who participated in an international program or had an interest in participating was welcome to attend.

International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) Luncheon – Participants of this year's high school exchange program were invited to attend. A record number of 120 students, advisors and host families "made the connection" at the luncheon.

Career Success Workshop – The workshop titled "Go Beyond Your Borders – An FFA International Experience" was presented by Brad Montgomery and ShanRae Hook.

Career Show Booth – Thousands of FFA members, advisors and guests visited the National FFA section of booths at the career show in Bartle Hall. Information on international opportunities was available, and hundreds of prizes were given away, including free international airfare to be used on an international program.

NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI

The National FFA Alumni Association is a vital link between FFA members and their futures. At this year's alumni convention, supporters reaffirmed their dedication to "Connecting the Pieces" that make FFA whole.

An important piece of the puzzle is the encouragement of alumni and states with successful programs, that they may continue their progress and inspire others. Several states were recognized for membership growth. The Delaware FFA Alumni had the year's highest percentage of membership growth, a staggering 591 percent, while Virginia saw the largest increase in members; its ranks swelling by 470 members.

Wisconsin Alumni celebrated several first-place rankings, for having the most life members at both the state and affiliate level, the most life affiliates, and the most members. Six states were honored for making life alumni members of their entire state officer teams. Friday the 13th turned out to be fortunate for the 13 states presented with the Blue Blazer award, which honors states which increased their rosters by at least 100 members.

Special recognition went to individuals whose tireless efforts exemplify the FFA Alumni's commitment to youth and agricultural education. Ninety-six alumni

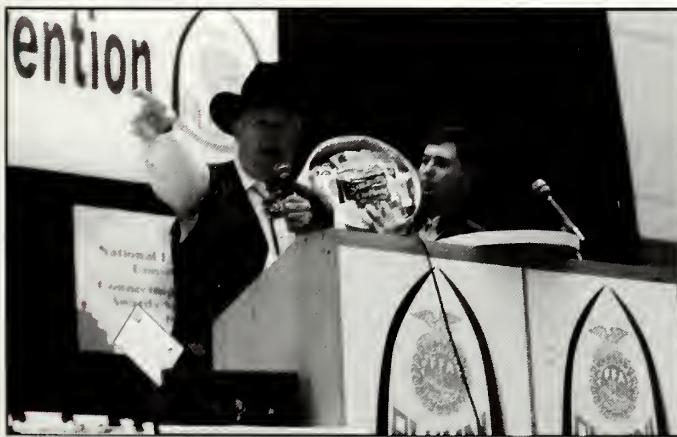
were presented with the Legion of Merit Citation, and three were distinguished with Outstanding Achievement Awards: Marie Salzsieder of Denmark, Wis., James Shiflet of Turner Ashby, Va., and Jim Spath of the University of Nebraska FFA Alumni Affiliate.

Delegates got down to business Friday afternoon. Members voted to raise annual dues from \$7 to \$10, and gave more authority to the alumni council executive committee to appoint replacements to the council.

The integral piece of any organization is its executive council, and alumni delegates had an opportunity to select their leaders for the coming year. President-elect Barry Anderson of Nebraska ran unopposed, but was honored to accept the membership's approval. North Carolina's Mac Hodges assumed the duties of vice president. Larry Swetnam of Kentucky and Jim Allsup of Texas will serve as representatives for the central and western regions, respectively.

The highlight of this year's gathering was the annual auction. The lightning-quick calls of the auctioneers filled the room as bidders raised a total of \$72,500 for scholarship funds by purchasing a variety of goods and collectibles, some pieces of FFA history. Among the items on the block: a Schrade Bowie knife which fetched \$2,350, a Gibson guitar autographed by Reba McEntire which sold for \$500 and items from the National FFA Archives. The prize of the night was a brand-new Chevy Silverado pickup, which was picked up by Jana Register of Florida's Register Farms for \$27,500. Others interested in the no-pressure approach to bidding opted for the silent auction which ran through the week. The items donated for sale included art, state specialties, and autographed celebrity photos, including one donated by actor Jim Carrey.

Despite all of the elements of the FFA alumni working together toward continued success, new president Anderson concedes there will always be more pieces to fit, something he looks forward to: "As long as there are FFA members and youth to serve, our work won't be finished."



"Going once, going twice, SOLD!" The FFA Alumni's auction raised \$72,500 for a scholarship fund to help FFA members advance their education. The YOAP's of Wisconsin provided auctioneer services.

Foundation Sponsors

NATIONAL FFA FOUNDATION SPONSORS

1998 marked the 32nd straight year of record-breaking fundraising by the National FFA Foundation to support annual projects and programs for FFA and agricultural education—an all-time record of \$7.2 million. The announcement was made Thursday night during the sponsor recognition program by 1998 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board Chairman Charles Fischer.

In addition to the annual funds raised for FFA, Fischer also announced that \$5.2 million has been pledged to the "I Believe in the Future" Capital Campaign to relocate the FFA Center to Indianapolis, Ind.

The challenge has now been put to the 1999 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board Chairman-Elect William T. Boehm, Vice President, Logistics, The Kroger Company. Using the 1999 Foundation theme, "FFA—Making the Connection" as a rallying cry, the effort is on to continue FFA's legacy of success through widespread support.

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NATIONAL FFA FOUNDATION SPONSORS

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The National FFA Foundation Sponsor's Board chairman, Charles Fischer, is introduced by Hillary Smith, national FFA president.

Foundation Sponsors

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Kansas City will always be synonymous with blue and gold for FFA members everywhere. The following businesses provided undesignated support for the 1998 National FFA Convention, and FFA thanks them for their belief in young people.

American Royal Association, Inc.; Bayer Corporation, Agriculture Division; Butler Manufacturing Company Foundation, on behalf of Butler Rural Buildings and Lester Building Systems; City of Kansas City; Commerce Bank, N.A.; Farmland Industries, Inc.; Hallmark Corporate Foundation; IMC Salt; The Kansas City Star Company; NationsBank Midwest; Sprint Foundation; Sprint/United Telephone - Midwest; John and Judy Wempe

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATIONS

FFA is proud to have the support of so many fine businesses and organizations. Each year, the Distinguished Service Citation is awarded to those supporters who have provided extraordinary amounts of time, effort or funding to expand opportunities for FFA members. Many of this year's awardees have been of particular service as hosts for various national FFA convention activities. FFA tips its hat to these generous organizations.

Fort Osage Vocational Technical School of Independence, Mo., has provided facilities for the Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event for several years.

Kansas City Hyatt of Kansas City, Mo., has provided facilities to host FFA Career Development Event headquarters staff for a number of years.

Kansas City Marriott Downtown of Kansas City, Mo., has provided facilities to house FFA

headquarters staff and to host many committee meetings.

Kansas State University of Manhattan, Kan., has provided facilities and staff for the Meats Technology Career Development Event for the past five years at the Kansas State Meats Facility.

Missouri Department of Conservation has provided facilities and personnel at Burr Oak Woods of Blue Springs, Mo. They have supported the Forest Career Development Event on a



The FFA recognized eight sponsors for their unwavering support of the national organization with the Distinguished Service Citation. Front Row: Myrna Nonaka, Fort Osage Vo-Tech School; Kathy Muth, Stewart-Peterson Advisory Group; Carol Pecoraro, Kansas City Marriott Downtown; Larry Lackamp, Missouri Department of Conservation. Back Row: Paul Wootten, Fort Osage Vo-Tech School; Dick Foell, ZENECA Ag Products Group; Leon Schumacher, University of Missouri at Columbia; Richard Edie, Kansas City Hyatt.

rotational basis with Swope Park since the event began.

Stewart-Peterson Advisory Group of West Bend, Wis., has provided assistance on the Internet, phone calls and coordinating the distribution of the exam portion of the Commodity Marketing Activity.

University of Missouri at Columbia of Columbia, Mo.,

has provided facilities and equipment support for a number of years.

ZENECA Ag Products Group of Wilmington, Del., has been a Four Star sponsor, supporting FFA programs including the Career Success Workshop on precision farming. They also exclusively sponsor the IMPACT Leadership Training Video Series, a vital part of FFA state officer training.

CAREER SHOW

Blue jackets poured into the 1998 Agricultural Career Show in search of their futures. Thousands of FFA members and guests visited over 970 booths representing 331 colleges, agribusiness firms, government and military agencies, agricultural corporations and other organizations from across the nation. Students talked to university representatives, surfed the Internet and sat in the driver's seat of new Chevy pickup trucks. Participants tickled the ivories of computer keyboards as they sent electronic postcards to friends and family.

Agricultural instructors learned the latest technology in classroom presentation methods using computer programs. State associations lined the isles with pictures and paraphernalia, sharing stories with onlookers. FFA members received a first-hand look at the latest in tractor and equipment advancement produced by such companies as John Deere and Case. For those who wanted to "get physical," the Marine Corps display allowed members to test their strength at the chin-up bar, while others tested their throwing arm by pitching a ball through a car filter at the Carquest booth. Many FFA members walked away from the career show with arms full of "freebies" such as pens, bumper stickers, magnets and a smiles of their faces.

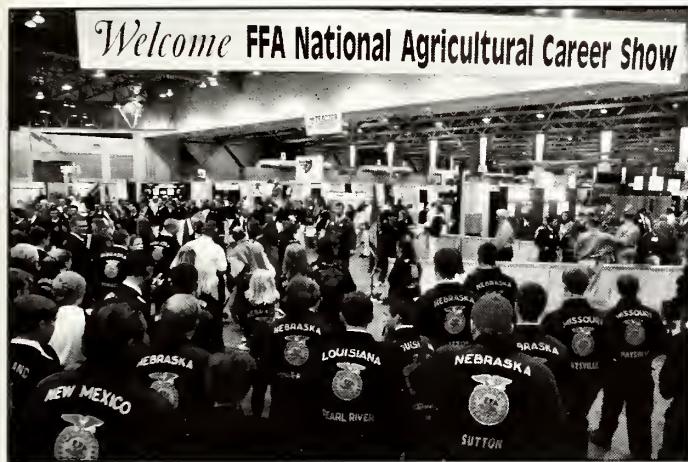
HALL OF STATES

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Arizona Association
Arkansas Association
Colorado Association
Connecticut Association
Hawaii Association
Idaho Association
Illinois Association
Indiana Association
Iowa Association
Kentucky Association
Louisiana Association
Maryland Association
Michigan FFA Association
Mississippi Association
Missouri Association
Montana Association

Nebraska Association
New Hampshire Association
New Jersey Association
New Mexico Association
New York Association
North Carolina Association
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Virginia Association
Washington Association
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Wyoming Association

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American Cyanamid Company
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Bayer Corporation, Agricultural Division
Breaking New Ground Resource Center
Briggs & Stratton Corporation
Buck Knives, Inc.
California State University—Chico
Career Development Systems
Carhartt, Inc.
Carolina Biological Supply Company
CARQUEST Corporation
Case IH
CENEX/Land O'Lakes
Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Inc. at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
Ceres International Women's Fraternity
CEV Multimedia
Chevrolet Motor Division
Chicago Board of Trade
Chicago Mercantile Exchange
Christian Kropf, Inc.
Clemson University
Colorado State University
Communicating for Agriculture Exchange Program
Community Calendars
Cornell University
Crosman Airguns
Dairy Farmers of America
DATA MATCH, Inc.
Delaware State University
Delaware Valley College
Delmar Publishers, Inc.
Depco Inc.
DeWALT High Performance Industrial Tools
Diversified Fund Raisers, Inc.
Dodge Trucks—Chrysler Corporation
Dow AgroSciences
Drake University Agricultural Law Society
DTN (Data Transmission Network)
Dundee Citrus
DuPont Agricultural Products
Durango Products Co.
ED>Net Biotechnology Initiative
Environmental Care, Inc.
Equipment Manufacturers Institute
Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education
Farm Works Software
FarmHouse Fraternity
Farmland Industries and Ag-Chem Equipment Co., Inc.
Fastline Publications
Fellowship of Christian Farmers International
Firestone Agricultural Tire Division
Fisco Farm and Home Stores
Florida Fruit Association, Inc.
Florida Indian River Groves, Inc.
Food & Drug Administration, Center for Veterinary Medicine
Ford Division—Ford Motor Company
Georgia Boot/Durango Boot
GROWMARK Inc.—FS
Hamilton - Locke, Inc.
Hawkeye Community College
Hillsdale College
Hobar Publications/Finney Company
Homestead Rodeo School
Horticopia Inc.
Humert International
Illinois State University
IMC Salt Co.



FFA members step into a world of opportunity awaiting them at the 1998 career show. Universities, agriculture companies, and service organizations set up booths to promote their products and career opportunities for FFA members.

Institute of Food Technologists
Instructional Materials Lab—University of Missouri
Instructional Materials Service—Texas A&M University
International Agricultural Exchange Association
International Arabian Horse Association
Interstate Publishers, Inc.
Iowa FFA Foundation, Inc.
Iowa Select Farms
Iowa State University
Iowa State University - Horticulture Dept.
Iowa Western Livestock Judging Contest
Jeffers Vet Supply
John Deere
John Deere Credit
Johnson & Wales University
Justin Boot Company
Kansas State University
Kirkwood Community College
L. C. Produce Fund Raising, Inc.
Lake Land Community College
Langdon Barber Groves, Inc.
Lincoln Electric Company
Livestock Conservation Institute
Louisiana State University
Maple Grove Distributing, Inc.
Maple Ridge Supply
Michelin Agricultural Tires
Michigan State University
MidAmerica Nazarene University
Middle Tennessee State University
Midwest Trophy Co., Inc.
Mississippi State University
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Valley College
Modesto Junior College
Monsanto Crop Protection
MoorMan's, Inc.
Murray State University
NAPA Auto Parts
Nashville Auto-Diesel College
National Agricultural Aviation Association

National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
National Antique Tractor Pullers Association
National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE)
National Association of Clovia
National Bison Association
National Council for Agricultural Education
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National FFA Alumni Association
National FFA Online
National FFA Programs and Activities (Partners)
National FFA Programs and Activities (Students)
National FFA Programs and Activities (Teachers)
National FFA—Agriscience Student Award Program Displays
National High School Rodeo Association
National Little Britches Rodeo Association
National Livestock Ethics Council
National Pork Producers Council
National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization
National Rifle Association of America
National Wild Turkey Federation
Nature's Technology, Inc.
NE BRANCH/ KC BRANCH AALAS
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
New Holland Credit Corp.
New Mexico State University
North American Corriente Association
North American Elk Breeders Association
North American Limousin Foundation
North Carolina State University
Northeastern Junior College
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
Northwest Missouri State University

Northwestern College
Northwestern Ohio Tractor Pullers
Ohio Agricultural Education Curriculum Materials Service
Oklahoma Curriculum & Instructional Materials Center
Oklahoma Panhandle State University
Oklahoma State University
Oklahoma Steel and Wire
Oregon State University
Oregon Trail Jerky
Park College
Patricia Stevens College
Peace Corps
Pennsylvania State University
Pfizer Animal Health—Dectomax Next Generation Program
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Power Technology, Inc.
Presto Products Company
Purdue University
Purina Mills, Inc.
R+ARE Resources
Rose Acre Farms
Schrade Cutlery
Shelton Industries Lock-A-Link
Sigma Alpha Sorority
Silver State International Rodeo, Inc.
Snap On Tools
Society of American Florists
Society of American Foresters
Sooner Trailer
Southeast Community College—Beatrice
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Southwest Missouri State University—Collegiate FFA
Spec Cast
Stone Manufacturing & Supply Company
Stuppy Greenhouse Manufacturing Company
Sunkist Growers, Inc.
SUNY Cobleskill
Superior Growers Supply
Swine Genetics International, Ltd.
Terra Industries
The Ertl Co., Inc.
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
The Humane Society of the United States
The Ohio State University
The University of Arizona
The University of Georgia
Titan Tire Corporation
Top Ten Music Inc.
Toyota Technical Education Network
Tractor Supply Company
Tulsa Welding School
U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service
U.S. Army Recruiting Command
U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.
U.S. Department of Education OVAE
U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Marine Corps
U.S. Navy Recruiting Command
University of Alaska Fairbanks—SALRM
University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas Dept. of Agronomy
University of California—Davis
University of Florida
University of Idaho
University of Illinois
University of Kentucky
University of Kentucky - College of Agriculture Distance Learning Programs
University of Maryland, Institute of Applied Agriculture
University of Minnesota—Crookston
University of Minnesota—St. Paul
University of Missouri—Columbia
University of Nebraska—Lincoln
University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez Campus
University of Wisconsin—Platteville
University of Wisconsin—Madison
University of Wisconsin—River Falls
University of Wyoming
Urbana Laboratories
USDA ARS - National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research
USDA ARS Grain Marketing and Production Research Center
USDA Economic Research Service
USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Foreign Agriculture Service
USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs
USDA National Agricultural Library
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service/CENSUS
USDA National Animal Disease Center
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Office of Inspector General
USDA Risk Management Agency - Topeka Regional Service Office
USDA Rural Development
Virginia Tech, College of Agriculture & Agricultural Education
Vita-Key Supplements
Washington State University
Western Illinois University, Agriculture Department
Western Kentucky University
Winchester Ammunition-Olin Corporation
WIX Filters Products Division of Dana Corporation
Woman's Christian Temperance Union
Wood-Mizer Products, Inc.
World Aquaculture Society
Zeecraft Tech.

COURTESY CORPS

The spirit of volunteerism was alive and well at the 71st National FFA Convention as hundreds of members donated valuable time to help others make the connection during convention week. Courtesy Corps members mailed news releases, escorted guests, assisted backstage, and performed a myriad of behind-the-scenes tasks. Their pay was the sincere gratitude of national FFA staff, and the more than 49,000 members and guests they served during the week.

The Courtesy Corps is a time-honored tradition at the convention, and FFA thanks those dedicated members and advisors who made the 71st national convention a memorable event.

ALABAMA: Billingsley; McAdory; Montevallo, Slocumb; Wetumpka

ALASKA: Palmer

ARIZONA: Agua Fria; Canyon DeChelly; Highland, Mesa, Mesquite

ARKANSAS: DeValls Bluff, Lewisville

CALIFORNIA: Delano

CONNECTICUT: Northwestern Regional, Stamford

FLORIDA: Baker County Jr.; Bunnell Sr.; Columbia Sr.; Coral Reef; Dade City Sr.; DeLand Sr.; Dunnellon Sr.; Ft. Pierce Westwood; J.M. Tate; Lake Placid; Miami Sr.; North Marion Sr.; Northview; Orlando-Colonial; Pierson Taylor; Plant City; Sebring Sr.; South Fork; Suwannee; Taylor Sr.

IDAHO: Parma

ILLINOIS: Hillsboro; Metamora; Tri-Point

INDIANA: Carroll; Clinton Prairie; Indian Creek; Jac-Cen-Del; Liberty; North Harrison; North Newton; Prairie Heights; Scotsburg; South Adams; Star Academy; Triton Central;

WESTERN Boone; Tri-County

IOWA: Akron-Westfield;

Anamosa; Centerville; East Union; Iowa State University; Laurens - Marathon; Linn-Mar; Maquoketa

KANSAS: Concordia; Holton

KENTUCKY: Lyon County; Madison Southern; Woodford County

LOUISIANA: Pearl River

MAINE: Ashland; Washburn

MICHIGAN: New Lothrop

MINNESOTA: Alexandria; Blue Earth; Lanesboro; Sibley County

East; Stillwater

MISSOURI: Aurora; Couch;

Crane; DeKalb; Linn County

R-I; Nevada; Norborne;

Northwestern; Palmyra; South Holt; Union; Walnut Grove;

Washington; Willard

NEBRASKA: Battle Creek; Hartington; Leigh; Newman Grove; Scribner-Snyder; Sutton; Wauneta Palisade

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Alvirne; Seacoast School of Technology

NORTH DAKOTA: Clayton

NORTH DAKOTA: Kenmare; Northwood; South Heart

OHIO: A.B. Graham; Benjamin Logan; New Lexington; Pickaway-Ross; Vantage; Warren

OKLAHOMA: Alex; Altus; Alva; Calvin; Chisholm; Elk City; Fort Gibson; Grandfield; Guthrie; Medford; Mooreland; Pawnee;

Reydon; Sand Springs; Sapulpa; Sayre; Sentinel; Silo; Snyder;

Spiro; Verden

OREGON: Perrydale

SOUTH CAROLINA: Belton-Honea Path

SOUTH DAKOTA: Alcester-Hudson; Highmore; Lennox Sundstrom; McCook Central; Webster; Woonsocket

TENNESSEE: Parsons

TEXAS: A&M Consolidated; Academy; Agua Dulce; Aledo; Alvin; Anderson; Arlington-Martin; Athens; Banquete;

Beeville; Bellevue; Bland; Bowie;

Bremond; Bryan; Campbell; Caney Creek; Channelview; Chico; Clear Creek; Clear Lake; Clyde; College Station; Columbus; Crowley; Cypress Creek; Dayton; DeSoto; Deweyville; Dodd City; Franklin; Glen Rose; Gregory Portland; Groesbeck; Gunter; Harrold; Hartley; Honey Grove; Huntsville; Idalou; Iola; Iowa Park; Kaufman; Killeen/Ellison; Kirbyville; Lake Worth; Madisonville; Marcus; McKinney; Mexia; Miami; Mission; Montgomery; Morton; Palestine; Pasadena; Pilot Point; Plano East; Raymondiville; Riesel; Rockdale; Salado; Sam Rayburn; Sealy; Snyder; Spring Branch; Springlake - Earth; Texline; Tolar; Tom Bean; West Brook; Willis; Wilson; Woodlands-McCullough; Yoakum

VIRGINIA: Dinwiddie; Fauquier County; Louisa; Park View

WISCONSIN: Alma Center-Lincoln; Gillett; Green Bay Preble;

New Glarus; Oconto Falls; Pulaski; Reedsville; Weyauwega - Fremont; Elk Mound



A certain breed of FFA member went beyond the call of duty to serve convention-goers as part of the Courtesy Corps. From stuffing envelopes to playing "gopher," the folks in the yellow arm bands were a vivid example of "living to serve."



BUSINESS

FA members from across the nation gathered in the Municipal Auditorium to address pending issues concerning the future of FFA. This group of 468 committed members started their work two days before the convention's opening session. They met for hours in committee gatherings Monday and Tuesday to draft proposals for consideration by the National FFA Board of Directors.

It was time to share their work during the next day's delegate sessions. Blue jackets arose from the delegate body proudly displaying their state associations during roll call Wednesday morning. The delegates approved the *Proceedings* from the 1997 convention and passed the Treasurer's report. Committee reports followed as members used their parliamentary procedure skills to debate proposed issues.

The Communications and Public Relations Committee recommended developing a national strategic plan to educate the media about the mission and goals of FFA. In the area of communication technology, delegates proposed creating a full-time internship to maintain the National FFA Homepage. The Agricultural Education Trends Committee also suggested the National FFA Homepage develop links to sponsors' websites, with the possibility of virtual tours of the companies. The Chapter Activities committee attempted to broaden the scope of FFA talent by suggesting the creation of an FFA member art exhibit at the national FFA convention.



This official delegate from Alaska records the ideas generated by his committee during Tuesday's meetings. They later condensed their thoughts into a report, given at Wednesday's business session.

The delegation debated a proposed amendment to the national constitution allowing sixth graders to join the FFA. Delegates gave heartfelt testimonies addressing this issue. After extensive discussion, the delegation voted to fail the amendment.

As the gavel tapped closing the last business session Saturday, delegates left the meeting knowing they had made a difference in the future of FFA.

Official Delegates

OFFICIAL DELEGATES

ALABAMA: Kevin Calloway, Felicia Coe, Nathan Dewberry, Josh Dozier, Jeanie Edwards, Jennifer Edwards, Ryan Galloway, Noel Goneke, Lonny Jackson, Dustin Kittle, Vanessa Kretzschmar, Adam McGee, Matt Parnell, Kenneth Smith, Bryce Ulrich, Eric Williams, Tremayne Wilson

ALASKA: Amy Kenley, Lem Wheeles

ARIZONA: Brian Fuller, Jeff Maynard, Marnee Mitchell, Jamie Rovey, Shauna Dawn Smith

ARKANSAS: David Brightwell, Nikki Cooper, Morris Crill, Claude Dabbs, Amanda Drake, Samantha Easley, Ryan Maloch, Jordan May, Angela Poole, Amanda Sands, Misty Smith, Wendy Wallis, Sheri Youngblood

CALIFORNIA: Christina Abe, Andrea Adams, Matt Archer, Debi Batini, Courtney Borrelli, Chandra Borrelli, Craig Bosworth, Lynelle Bosworth, Angela Browning, Lindsey Bugbee, Kristen Callens, Kristen Chaney, Julie Cope, Andrew Copen, Josh Davy, Nicholas Diaz, Frances Echeverria, Mandy Foreman, Melissa Gomes, Lauren Green, Nate Green, Scott Grumbles, Tracy Haas, Summer Hackett, Pamela Heuvel, Leigh Love, Jessica Lovett, Kevin Luiz, Chris Madsen, Kevin Mathy, Sophia Meyer, Rafael Mozqueda, Douglas Paasch, John Paasch, Jake Parnell, Luke Parnell, Jeffrey Sanders, Sharlene Swaim, Erin Thompson, Greg Van Dyke, Trevor Weaver, Dane White

COLORADO: Molly Brown, DaShanda Gillespie, Juli Rogers, Kasey Jo Walker, Clint Wedel

CONNECTICUT: Heather Attardo, Elyse Giles, Erin Sepe, Stacey Stearns

DELAWARE: Kara Kochis, Rosemarie Parag, Terri Lynn Warren

FLORIDA: Ben Butler, Casey Ferguson, Dusty Holley, Kyle Hudson, Barrett Keene, Jeremy Lee, Jimmy Lefils, Amanda Perry, Abby Sameck, Ronnie Simmons, Amanda Smith, Chris Vitelli, Amy Wacaser

GEORGIA: Jonathan Ayers, Mary Ann Davis, Amy Day, Nicole Doster, Clint Hubbard, Jennifer Hughes, Krista Jowers, Sally Mason, Philip McKie, Terry McNair, Carl Stalvey, Adam Verner

HAWAII: Dawn Ah Hee, Mahina Johnson

IDAHO: Jake Brackett, Missy Johnson, Wendy Schweitzer, Jessica Skinner, Josh Tewalt

ILLINOIS: Parker Bane, Elisabeth Carroll, Jay Harris, Stephani Hess, Jake Hughes, Tim McDermott, Shane McNeil, Nate Olson, Nate Puleo, Jenny Schaefer, Genny Schutz, Bridget Stremsterfer, Beth Wilson, Abel Wurmnest

INDIANA: Dustin Boler, Kyle Bymaster, Stacia Cash, Chris Geswein, Robert Johnson, Matt McDowell, Jonathan Taylor, Misty Wegman, Craig Weisman

IOWA: Jayma Appleby, Debra Dennison, Randy Dreher, Nathan Gibson, Thomas Goodhue, Jay Jung, Nick McKenna, Cathy Striegel, Jacqueline Venner, Matthew Welk, Brad Weston, Mike Witt

KANSAS: Jill Casten, Devin Schiepling, Leslie Small, Lance Stafford, Matt Wolters, Becky Zenger

KENTUCKY: Jonathan Adams, Jimmy Allen, Tara Cockrell, Rachel Hall, Anthony Koch, Hannah Lovell, Aaron Miller, Jonathan Oaks, Brandon Reed, Sarah Sallee, Justin Taylor, Clay Wells, Sara Williamson

LOUISIANA: Joseph Badeaux, Shelly Fontenot, Tim Hall, Barret Hargrave, Lori Beth Hayes, Josh Hicks, Erica Loupe, Mindy Pierson, Kristi Redlich, Lyle Sibile, Christen Weeks
MAINE: Joseph Ramos, Kristy Soucier
MARYLAND: Christopher Burch, Diane Ogg, Dora Smith
MASSACHUSETTS: Corrine Blum, Aaron Caswell, Jennie Nelson

MONTANA: Beau Anderson, Levi Keyes, Shaundra Schaff, LeRoy Schallenberger

NEBRASKA: Julie Brester, Sally Bush, Monte Else, Jodi Evans, Brady Fritz, Adam Pavelka, Lisa Schaneman

NEVADA: Jay Dalton, Chap Pratt, Flint Wright

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Elizabeth Kaiser, Dennis Perkins, Linnae Selinga



Tremayne Wilson of Alabama listens attentively during a business session. Official delegates strengthened their parliamentary procedure skills while discussing the future of the national organization.

MICHIGAN: Nathan Clark, Jenny Daniels, Jennifer Leininger, Dennis Peterson, Lisa Posthumus, Jackie Swihart

MINNESOTA: Betsy Bianchi, Jeremy Daberkow, Brian Joyer, Kara Ladlie, Darin Madson, Hector Matthys, Robert Parke, Dusty Schilling, Kelly Schmidt, Kelly Tanghe

MISSISSIPPI: Patrick Colley, Brandon Davis, Justin Downs, John Kelly, Shannon Mayo, Paula Runge

MISSOURI: Allison Cadie, Sally Greene, Garrett Hawkins, Melody Higginbotham, Amanda Hofmann, Charles Kinsey, Christine Long, Ben Martin, Nicholas Rausch, Kelley Rohlfing, Eric Roller, Tiffany Rouse, Andrea Schweizer, Terry Shepherd, Brad Shockley, Amy Sullivan, Joshlin Yoder

NEW JERSEY: Nichole Steward, Paulette Nyiri, Luke Ottinger Jr.
NEW MEXICO: Marshall Baker, Chris Daugherty, Azori Dodd, Jake Hill, Christine Hopkins, Kelly Jones

NEW YORK: Matt Hobart, Britney O'Conner, Lorelle Price, Aaron Vaughan, Zack Wilcox
NORTH CAROLINA: Tiffany Baucom, Matthew Bowman, Amber Drees, Mark Elliott, Becky Hines, Sabrina Kimrey, Misty Lambert, Devon Lewis, Aaron Maye, Aaron Messer, Lyndsie Muirhead, John Peterson



Official Delegates

NORTH DAKOTA: Nicole Gullickson, Kristy Jorde, Missy Montgomery, Gregory Mostad, KariAnn Seeger, Jon Solberg
OHIO: Elizabeth Altstaetter, David Andre, Emily Bisdorf, Julie Chance, Gregory Dague, Lisa-Marie Ehlerding, Chad Endsley, Randy Fisher, Sue Hoop, Leia Kaufman, Lesley King, Meredith Massy, Jason Oman, Carrie Rhoades, Jason Sharp, Joe Shultz, Matt Smith, Kellie Warner, Kim Woodard
OKLAHOMA: Joey Adamek, Mel Albright, Leslie Ballou, Joshua Brecheen, Ginger Bright, Nick Brown, David Deskin, Chad Dimmick, Whitney Ferris, Bart Fischer, Tembra Gatlil, Amber Harless, Jordana Harrison, Trapper Heglin, Josh King, David Miller, Robyn Ott, Steve Sanders, Casey Sharber, Adam Tibbetts, Carrie Trentham
OREGON: Tracey Baune, Benjamin Harris, Brett Jeter, Jared Kerr, Ben Van Dyke
PENNSYLVANIA: Laurie Bish, Allyson Cole, Danielle Cowden, Travis Donough, Herbert Hoffeditz, Dan Kreider, Karen Reed, Britina Robinson, Jennifer Witmer, Luke Zerby
PUERTO RICO: Jose De Jesus, Marisel San Miguel, Zoila Rodriguez, Lynnette Sorrentini
RHODE ISLAND: Dennis Etchells, Adam Hebert
SOUTH CAROLINA: Jason Creamer, Scott Ellis, Johnathan Foxworth, Ben Hutto, Iris Peeler, Zac Terry

SOUTH DAKOTA: Tiffany Anderson, Rachel Mehlhaf, Kathy Mickel, Shane Reis, Nathan Sanderson
TENNESSEE: Karen Adams, Matt Barnes, Melissa Honaker, Stephanie Johnson, Jarrod Jordan, Glenn LaFollette, Michael Lamb, Kristen Moore, Karen Newsom, Grace Page, Shannon Reburn, Julie Shew
TEXAS: Brandi Adams, Ben Baldwin, Jimmy Birkhead, Shay Bluntzer, Marci Brzozowsk, Adam Byrd, Laina Cadro, Mary Kay Carter, Kimberly Clifton, Meredith Cook, Amanda Custy, Nathan Daniels, Will Dickison, Ross Dobbs, Jordan Freeman, Traci Gohmert, Becky Grover, Victor Guerra, Ty Hamm, Brandon Hill, Sara Johnson, Bridgette Jones, Jacquelyn Kuykendall, Heather Lawhon, H. D. Laurence, Debbie Lee, Diedra Liggett, Trent McKnight, Dusty Moore, Cade Morris, Jennifer Morris, Louis Ortiz, Wendy Palmore, Alex Palousek, Jake Prince, Brice Redwine, Koby Reed, Meredith Schacht, Erin Schroeder, Tommy Seay, Will Sherwood, Lindsey Shumaker, John Slaughter, Jarrod Smith, Danny Stiller, Paul Strawther, Michael Taylor, Brandon Williamson, Kimberly Wright
UTAH: Jerry Fowers, Haley Hunting, Justen Selman, Rodney Spencer, Kasee Sweat
VERMONT: Kylie Quesnel, Carie Telgen

VIRGIN ISLANDS: Tasahil Khalil, Sabrina George
VIRGINIA: Eliza Baldwin, Rebecca Begoon, Chris Bielmyer, Johnny Davis, Ben Grove, Daniel Lauro, Warren McLellan, Elizabeth Ramsey, Tarinda Showman
WASHINGTON: Elizabeth Abbey, Jodi Frederick, Nathan Hahner, Becky Isenhart, Brian Long, Jodi Simms, Matthew Sweeza, Rebecca Thomson, Jake Yancey

WEST VIRGINIA: David Aberegg, Tyrell Childers, Roger Hanshaw, Michael Shamblin, Julie Wilkins
WISCONSIN: Christy Brewer, Kathi Brown, Arlaina Gonske, Tolea Kamm, Jennifer Mundt, Kristan Noeldner, Marie Preuss, David Rolli, Joshua Rusk, Nathan Russell, Jill Schaffner, Derin Tangwall, Jeannie Winkelman, Eric Zellmer, Sara Zimmerman
WYOMING: Melisa Griffith, Cody Smith, Traci Walton, Corey Whitlock



Official delegates review committee reports before discussion opens for recommendations to the National Board of Directors.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION TRENDS

We recommend:

Technology

1. Create a video and or packet/pamphlet promoting technology in agriculture targeting existing and potential sponsors and supporters of the FFA.
2. Include more articles and pictures involving technology in FFA publications such as New Horizons, Making A Difference, Leadership Connection, and the National FFA Homepage.
3. Make available interactive TV or distance learning to temporarily fill the need for more agriculture teachers.
4. Expand and improve the National FFA Homepage and recruitment videos, as well as create posters highlighting technology in FFA.
- 5.* Add links from the National FFA Homepage to the homepage of our national sponsors in order to highlight technology in their companies through virtual Internet tours of their companies.



Career show visitors were invited to send electronic postcards to the folks at home courtesy of the FFA. It was a great way to introduce members to computers and Internet technology, and best of all, no postage necessary.

Teacher Recruitment/Retention

- 1.* Follow through with informative mailings to those students who mark agricultural education interests on the national roster.
2. Establish a teacher recognition program through the New Horizons magazine, which highlights several agricultural educators per month.
3. Develop a proficiency award which highlights agricultural education as a career.
4. Develop an insert in the Alumni Newsletter which focuses on ways alumni can volunteer to provide assistance to instructors and support local chapters.

Components of Agricultural Education

1. Make available the regional guide upon request for teachers needing laboratory materials, resource contacts, and lesson plan ideas.
2. Develop a core curriculum to be available from the National Council of Agricultural Educators highlighting the main areas of agriculture.
- 3.* Support the SAE by providing a new, more concise definition of the SAE as well as incorporating it as a larger part of the FFA materials (Official Manual, Student Handbook, etc.) and previously recommended curriculum.
4. Sponsor in-service programs with state vocational agriculture teacher organizations to better educate agriculture teachers about programs and issues available in agriculture and the FFA.
5. Make incentives available to teachers of chapters who meet certain criteria, for example: 100% membership and participation in state degree programs, CDEs, proficiency programs, and National Superior Chapter award programs.

Student Involvement and Enrollment

- 1.* Establish a celebrity spokesman for agricultural education and FFA to provide more media coverage to inform the public about the changes in agricultural education and FFA.
2. Revise the current agricultural education and FFA pamphlets that are provided. Develop one geared toward administration showing academics and life training skills, and another geared toward students showcasing fun and rewarding opportunities.

3. Provide state associations with information focusing on successful core 40, block scheduling, and college preparation programs.
4. Create a curriculum for an agricultural consumer class that includes life skills. (For example, fertilizing a lawn, changing car oil, landscaping.)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Amanda Smith, FL (Chair)
 Jake Yancey, WA (Vice Chair)
 Joshua Hicks, LA
 Iris Peeler, SC
 Tim McDermott, IL
 Amanda Hofmann, MO
 Brad Weston, IA
 Betsy Bianchi, MN
 Clay Wells, KY
 Lindsey Bugbee, CA
 Jordan C. Freeman, TX
 Adam Verner, GA
 Amanda Sands, AR
 David Miller, OK
 Randy Fisher, OH
 Jodi Evans, NE
 Karen Reed, PA
 Genny Schutz, IL
 Deidra Liggett, TX
 Adam Byrd, TX
 Lauren Green, CA
 Lisa-Marie Ehlerding, OH
 Kevin Calloway, AL

Thomas Goodhue, IA
 Adam Hebert, RI
 Jacquelyn Kuykendall, TX
 Adam Tibbets, OK
 Amber Drees, NC
 Beau Anderson, MT
 Koby D. Reed, TX
 Chris Bielmyer, VA
 Garrett Hawkins, MO
 Kevin Luiz, CA
 Clint Hubbard, GA
 Eric Zellmer, WI
 Roo Parag, DE
 Marnee Mitchell, AZ
 Dustin Kittle, AL
 David Brightwell, AR
 Christina Abe, CA
 Stacey Stearns, CT
 Ben Butler, FL
 Chris Geswein, IN
 Jill Casten, KS
 Dusty Moore, TX
 Arlaina Gonske, WI

* Indicates priority recommendation

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

We recommend:

Program Development

- 1.* Design a recruitment packet available on disk through the supply service to include the following: recruitment workshop lesson plans, visual aids, videos, sample letters to parents, activities for younger members, and educational workshops to inform the community and school administration about FFA.
- 2.* Offer students internships with major agriculture companies through the National FFA Organization.
3. Expand the content of recruitment training at NLCSD and BLAST OFF.
4. Promote CDEs designed for different age groups.
5. Add a Greenhand Page and a Parent Page in FFA New Horizons.
6. Develop a motivational retention packet.
7. Use the National FFA Homepage as an informational source on career options, college partnerships, and scholarship options. Expand the interest assessment to include more career options and possible CDEs.

Program Evaluation

- 1.* Develop a standardized form to collect innovative fundraising activities and funding sources (grants, etc). Compile ideas into a publication available to chapters.
- 2.* Offer interactive videos and workshop presentations ready for state associations and local chapters to promote the following areas: Project PALS, Agri-Science Fair/Student Recognition, Food for America, International Opportunities, National Chapter Award, H.O. Sargent Award, and Entrepreneurship.
3. Establish a recognition program at the state level for Project PALS modeled after the National Chapter Award Program.
4. Continue to recognize award program winners in FFA New Horizons.
5. Improve accessibility of award applications by making them available on the National FFA Homepage.
6. Support the efforts of rewording award applications to improve students' understanding.

Diversity and Inclusion

- 1.* Create a recruitment video targeted at the chapter level with the intent to promote diversity to include information about the following: H.O. Sargent Award, Agriscience Fair, National FFA Band and Chorus, non-traditional Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs/Proficiency Awards, and other diverse FFA activities.
- 2.* Create an art exhibit at the national FFA convention that showcases FFA members' artistic talent.
3. Incorporate diversity and include training in state officer leadership programs (i.e. BLAST OFF, State Presidents' Conference, National Leadership Conference for State Officers, and national FFA convention.).
4. Create web pages targeted at all chapters with links to FFA applications (i.e. H.O. Sargent, Agriscience Fair), financial opportunities (scholarships, awards, grants, etc.), and traditional and non-traditional Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs.
5. Feature FFA members' art work in the FFA New Horizons magazine.
6. Encourage advisors and members to create or participate in local, state, and national exchange programs in order to increase diversity.

Chapter Relations

- 1.* Create curriculum information that helps integrate agriculture into classes such as science, math, and communications (i.e. biological or physical science applied to agriculture).
- 2.* Secure funding to send administrators to national FFA convention.
3. Educate non-agricultural oriented administrators and teachers by inviting them to FFA functions. Accomplish this by gaining endorsements from teacher groups and organizations, and sending information to the aforementioned teacher organizations about our programs (i.e. Agriscience Fair, contests, etc.).
4. Contact national non-agriculture media for coverage in all areas of media (i.e. Newsweek, The Today Show, Oprah, etc.).
5. Create an information packet explaining step-by-step community service programs (i.e. Project PALS, Habitat for Humanity).
6. Create an academic challenge program dealing with agriculture, similar to Odyssey of the Mind to include: agriculture engineering, science, and business/financial aspects.
7. Create a forum at national FFA convention of non-agricultural students and teachers to give their view on issues pertinent to FFA.
8. Create a national award for administrators based on their support of and involvement in the FFA.
9. Create a national publication for administrators and counselors with agriculture education programs to focus on career success and student involvement similar to Leadership Connections and FFA Advisors Making a Difference.
10. Develop a program for chapter officers to present to teachers and administrators about the FFA.
11. Create a booklet of letters of satisfaction and approval of the FFA by public officials, universities, and influential people.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Ben Grove, VA (Chair)
Jay Harris, IL (Vice Chairman)
Josh Dozier, AL
Matt Parnell, AL
Angela N. Poole, AR
Brian Fuller, AZ
Matt Archer, CA
April Chaney, CA
Tracy Haas, CA
Kevin Mathy, CA
Heather Attardo, CT
Casey Ferguson, FL
Mary Ann Davis, GA
Nate Gibson, IA
Nate Olson, IL
Stacia J. Cash, IN
Tara Cockrell, KY
Devin Schieveling, KS
Shelly C. Fontenot, LA
Corrine Blum, MA
Kristy Soucier, ME
Lisa Posthumus, MI
Darin Madson, MN

Justin Downs, MS
Kelley Rohlwing, MO
Aaron Messer, NC
Jon Solberg, ND
Brady M. Fritz, NE
Nichole Steward, NJ
Flint Wright, NV
Julie Chance, OH
Ginger Bright, OK
Mel Ray Albright, OK
Allyson Cole, PA
Lynnette Sorrentini, PR
Jason Creamer, SC
Tiffany Anderson, SD
Matt Barnes, TN
Meredith Cook, TX
Trent McKnight, TX
Cade Morris, TX
Erin Schroeder, TX
Justin Selman, UT
Nathan Hahner, WA
Sara Zimmerman, WI
Traci Walton, WY

* Indicates priority recommendation



CAREER SUCCESS ACTIVITIES

We recommend:

American FFA Degree

1. Keep the present requirements the same for the American FFA Degree.
2. Ask the National Task Force on Agricultural Proficiencies to more clearly define the terms used in the American FFA Degree application.
- 3.* Present recipients with a wallet-sized card that identifies them as an American FFA Degree recipient.
4. Commend the National Task Force on Agricultural Proficiencies for their service to the organization and encourage them to continue their hard work.
5. Seek a sponsor for a scholarship for recipients of the American FFA Degree.
6. Recognize American FFA Degree recipients through a “parade of recipients” allowing them to walk through during a session other than the award session.
- 7.* Add a statement about candidates’ integrity to the American FFA Degree application in addition to current signature statements.
- 8.* Encourage the National Task Force on Agricultural Proficiencies to no longer pursue FFA degrees for junior high members, but instead seek to increase retention by promoting achievement in the FFA.

Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)

- 1.* Develop a marketing plan that promotes the simplicity, rewards and benefits, and the importance of SAE programs.
- 2.* Provide informative workshops and other materials for advisors that would encourage involvement of SAE in the classroom curriculum.
3. Set guidelines to what an acceptable SAE is, as applied to a national award or recognition.
4. Promote SAE to middle school programs.
5. Increase awareness of how SAE can compare to work-based training.

Career Development Events

1. Review all current and proposed Career Development Events for possible clustering and combining of all CDEs that are related to the same career.
- 2.* Produce a Spanish version of the *Official FFA Manual*, including CDE material, supplied by the National FFA Organization.
3. Develop a Spanish division of all Career Development Events (i.e., public speaking, parliamentary procedure)
4. Review all current CDEs, looking specifically at the integration of technology as new innovations arise.
- 5.* Maintain a non-restricted number of career development events so as not to hinder growth, and maintain the current systems of minimum participation standards for career development events.

Proficiency Awards

1. Follow the recommendations of the National Task Force on Agricultural Proficiencies.
- 2.* Award as many proficiency areas as funding allows, separating entrepreneurship and placement categories. Awards should be relevant to the current agricultural industry, and should change as the industry evolves.

3. Revise the application by adding three references (name, title, address, phone number) to the resume and add the following questions.
 - a. How has your FFA experience benefited your project?
 - b. If given the time and resources, what is one improvement you would make to your project?
- 4.* Require at least one proficiency judge to have experience or involvement in that area of the industry.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Barret Hargrave, LA (Chair)	Joshlin Yoder, MO
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Jamie Rovey, AZ	Jason Oman, OH
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Scott Grumbles, CA	Brett Jeter, OR
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Molly Brown, CO	Zoila Rodriguez, PR
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Jeremy Daberkov, MN	Becky Isenhart, WA
Dennis Peterson, MI	Tolea Kamm, WI
	Derin Tangwall, WI



FFA members “learn by doing” in the National Career Development Events during the convention. This member is choosing the perfect blossoms to create a flower arrangement during the Floriculture contest.

* Indicates priority recommendation

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

We recommend:

Media Relations

- 1.* Develop a national strategic plan in order to educate the media about the FFA mission and goals.
2. Identify a national spokesperson to promote FFA and agricultural education.
3. Create a series of Public Service Announcements to promote public awareness of FFA and agricultural education funded as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.
4. Develop media education materials to create partnerships with the media, and provide training to state officers on how to use the materials.



Communication Strategies

- 1.* Redesign focus of recruitment videos to use as visual aids in workshops.
2. Produce television commercials.
3. Create a section on community outreach to be included at Made For Excellence and Washington Leadership Conferences.
4. Present key messages that reinforce the FFA story.
5. Invite people not involved in education or agricultural industry to judge various FFA awards to expose them to the FFA.

Local television reporters "ambush" an FFA member at the National FFA Career Show. Throughout Kansas City, members found themselves willing ambassadors, setting a good example for America's youth.

Communication Technology

- 1.* Create an internship to work full time on the National FFA Homepage.
- 2.* Develop links to all state websites from the National FFA Homepage.
3. Explore the addition of new features to the National FFA Homepage (i.e. educational media, applications, CDE study guides, registration forms).
4. Develop a national listserve of e-mail addresses (national, state, and local).
5. Develop marketing plan for National FFA Homepage.
6. Utilize broadcasting systems to promote and publicize the FFA.
7. Standardize software program for creating newsletters.

Current FFA Transitions

- 1.* Inform FFA members, advisors, and residents about Louisville by distributing information such as maps, posters, and brochures; include a countdown theme utilizing newspapers, magazines, internet; New Horizons, television, radio, billboards, sports arenas, and booths at the National Farm Machinery show in Louisville.
2. Provide tours in and around Louisville for advisors and state FFA officers in the summer months prior to the 1999 National FFA Convention.
3. Provide shuttles during the 1999 National FFA Convention traveling from Louisville to the National FFA Center in Indianapolis.
4. Provide an incentive package for students to visit the National FFA Center throughout the year.
5. Explore possibilities of promoting FFA through the use of the Speedway in Indianapolis.
6. Book notable speakers to attract FFA members to the 1999 National FFA Convention (i.e. George Strait, Paul Harvey, Elizabeth Dole, the President or major political figure, Andy Rooney, or famous comedian).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Dusty Holley, FL (Chair)	Becky Hines, NC
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Andrew Copen, CA	Tracy Baune, OR
Sophia Meyer, CA	Herb Hoffeditz, PA
Kyle Hudson, FL	Jose V. De Jesus, PR
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Catherine Striegel, IA	Mary Kay Carter, TX
Jake Hughes, IL	Will Dickison, TX
Matt McDowell, IN	Brandon Hill, TX
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Becky Zenger, KS	Paul Strawther, TX
Jonathan Adams, KY	R.J. Spencer, UT
Mindy Pierson, LA	Warren McLellan, VA
Jackie Swihart, MI	Kylie Quesnel, VT
Kelly Schmidt, MN	Elizabeth Abbey, WA
Nicholas Rausch, MO	Joshua Rusk, WI
Brandon L. Davis, MS	Roger Hanshaw, WV
Chap Pratt, NV	Corey Whitlock, WY

* Indicates priority recommendation

FFA PUBLICATIONS

We recommend:

FFA New Horizons

- 1.* Further investigate having personalized inserts.
2. Increase the number of traditional agricultural articles.
3. Incorporate other learning styles, add a statistical/informational page with facts about agriculture and the FFA.
4. Place more emphasis on CDEs.
5. Customize the first issue new members receive
6. Broaden "FFA in Action" by adding ideas about icebreakers, eye openers and fundraisers.
7. Highlight one Star Advisor per issue.
8. Create a packet of state inserts and a letter to be sent to all state staff educating them about state inserts.
9. Incorporate "10 Hot Ag Careers" in facts page.
10. Allow more interaction with members by holding photo and essay contests.
11. Create puzzles, games or crosswords dealing with articles from that issue.

Handbook and Manual

- 1.* Utilize page space by eliminating large outer margins.
2. Update pictures in the Official FFA Manual.
3. Relate pictures on page to page topics. (ex: pgs: 50, 13 & 23)
4. Add interactive team building activities for chapter officers to the FFA Student Handbook.
5. Add a reference page to the FFA Student Handbook containing addresses. (Ex: USDA, National Center, etc.)



FFA members consult a newspaper in search of a fun way to spend the afternoon. Opportunities to explore Kansas City and its surrounding areas abounded, including historical sites and museums devoted to jazz, African-American culture and toys and miniatures.

6. Reduce photo sizes in the Official FFA Manual.
7. Develop a way to code topics of the Official FFA Manual (ex: colors or tabs).
8. Include middle school opportunities in the FFA Student Handbook.

New Ideas

- 1.* Simplify the front page of the National FFA Homepage by eliminating text and adding pictures and graphic elements.
2. Make access to local chapters on the internet more user friendly by adding a site map or search engine on the homepage.
3. Add links on the National FFA Homepage to our sponsor's page and vice versa.
4. Add "FFA Facts" to National FFA Homepage and update monthly.
5. Create an e-mail service that will provide monthly updates on upcoming events, deadlines, etc., to FFA members and chapters who wish to subscribe.
6. Initiate a national advertising campaign in publications not produced by FFA.
7. Develop national FFA scholarship and American FFA Degree applications online.
8. Develop a pocket-sized Official FFA Manual with condensed text.

Teacher/Advisor Publications

- 1.* Develop a reminders page in FFA Advisors Making a Difference concerning national deadlines and events.
2. Revise cover page of FFA Advisors Making a Difference by changing color, font, adding pictures, and arranging the placement of words to add reader appeal.
3. Update teacher instructional videos.
4. Encourage advisors to submit lessons or labs to be featured in FFA Advisors Making a Difference.

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Levi Keyes, MT	Jeannie Winkelman, WI
Aaron Maye, NC	Cody Smith, WV
Linnae Selenga, NH	

* Indicates priority recommendation

LEADERSHIP AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

We recommend:

International Experience

- 1.* Create an international tool kit which includes bulletin board decorating ideas, a promotional video, existing information and material on international experience programs to be made available to all FFA chapters by the National FFA Organization.
2. Produce an interactive CD-ROM game with information on foreign countries and the international experience programs that is similar to the "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" series. Lesson plan and instructional material should be created for the benefit of advisors.
3. Feature a country in the FFA New Horizons and on the National FFA Homepage to promote international experience programs. The website should include a sample of the interactive CD-ROM game.
4. Encourage national FFA staff to work closely with the National FFA Alumni Association to promote and obtain support for the international experience programs.

Leadership Continuum

- 1.* Utilize all high school FFA members as mentors/jr. high advisors to create a "PALS" type program targeting a diverse group of middle school students and focusing on personal development. Use counselors and administrators for program promotion.
2. Develop a scholarship to be awarded for collegiate FFA involvement to be given at national FFA convention.
3. Create a workshop series for collegiate FFA members to be offered at national FFA convention on mentoring chapter members.
- 4.* Publicize information and activities of collegiate FFA on the internet, in FFA New Horizons, and through other means of communication (including Advanced Leadership Conference).
5. Introduce a regional camp emphasizing chapter team building offered to grades 9-12 and incorporating collegiate FFA as program directors.

Program Involvement/Diversity

The Program Involvement/Diversity Committee considered diversity in a cultural, age, urban vs. rural, geographic, race, gender, etc. sense.

- 1.* Develop a diversity-based program and make it available for educators such as counselors, state officers, and teachers to aid in student education.
2. Educate state staff about diversity.
- 3.* Reinstate the task force on diversity and begin constant follow-up of progress.
4. Establish web pages for chapter-to-chapter, and state-to-state exchange programs with a focus on, but not limited to, urban, rural and geographic diversity.
5. Continue to include background diversity in publications and promotional materials.

Program Awareness

1. Expand the National FFA Homepage by developing interactive links on the specific programs offered by the National FFA Organization.

2. Develop a program that encourages FFA members to invite non-FFA members to MFE and/or create a new program for this purpose.
3. Create a return postcard to be included in FFA New Horizons that advertises and evaluates National FFA programs and events (postage paid by National FFA Organization).
4. Develop a system of scholarship awards based on essay contests or other contests, to benefit first-time participants who would like to attend National Leadership Conferences (i.e. WLC and MFE).

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 Samantha Easley, AR
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 Josh Davy, CA
 Pamela Heuvel, CA
 Rafael Mozqueda, CA
 Ronnie, Simmons, FL
 Krista Jowers, GA
 Carl Stalvey, GA
 Mike Witt, IA
 Missy Johnson, ID
 Shane McNeil, IL
 Beth Wilson, IL
 Robert Johnson, IN
 Misty Wegman, IN
 Sarah Sallee, KY
 Sara Williamson, KY
 Lori Beth Hayes, LA
 Jennie Nelson, MA
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Hector Matthys, MN
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 Josh King, OK
 Jared Kerr, OR
 Dan Kreider, PA
 Karen Adams, TN
 Shannon Reburn, TN
 Amanda Custy, TX
 Heather Lewhon, TX
 Debbie Lee, TX
 Jarrod Smith, TX
 Brandon Williamson, TX
 Eliza Baldwin, VA
 David Aberegg, WV
 Melisa Griffith, WV

* Indicates priority recommendation



FFA members gained valuable skills in team management as they shared ideas concerning the future of the national organization during delegate committee meetings.

MARKETING AND MERCHANDISING

We recommend:

Customer Relations

- 1.* Place catalog order forms on the National FFA Homepage.
2. Include official student catalog on the National FFA Homepage.
3. Target FFA parents and alumni with merchandise through alumni newsletters, direct mail, and *FFA New Horizons*.
4. Advertise a document for national FFA convention pre-registration.
5. Include a suggestion box on the National FFA Homepage.
6. Include evaluation postcard with the shipment.
7. Create an advisory team of FFA members that would interact with merchandising representatives.
8. Implement a touch tone phone service for ordering assistance.
9. Include an evaluation at teacher's conference on rotational basis.
10. Revamp order form with eye-catching appeal with a step-by-step format.
11. Recommend follow up call by advisors on fax orders.
12. Create a separate line for customer service inquiries.
13. Place a representative in each time zone (due to time zone conflicts) to receive orders and forward to National FFA Center.

Product Development

- 1.* Incorporate more subtle emblems used on all products.
2. Supply FFA swimwear; one piece for females, long trunks for males; with the insignia emblem.
3. Supply more styles of polo-type shirts.
4. Supply official men's black dress shoes. There could possibly be more than one price range/quality level/design for different needs.
5. Supply officer team shirts with officer labels on the shirts. Offer both polo and t-shirt styles.
6. Supply several styles of dress and casual belts.
7. Supply more narrow, or professional-looking suspenders that match the official tie or are black.
8. Supply sleeveless white shirts for girls.
9. Supply official white dress shirt that is:
 - 100% cotton
 - Long Sleeve
 - Wrinkle free
 - Variety of collar styles (button-down, tab collar)
10. Provide more stylish caps, such as letters D and J on page # 12 in the 1998-99 Chapter Catalog.
11. Offer a judging team parka with a drawstring around the middle.
12. Offer mock turtleneck with emblem on the neck.
13. Offer a custom-fit blazer for male and female advisors, with emblem on the pocket or lapel.
14. Offer a gold, single-stud appreciation pin similar to state-sized pins to recognize local sponsors/partners.
15. Offer a simple money clip without knives.
16. Offer truck mud flaps.
17. Offer FFA receiver hitch insert.
18. Offer more license plated and window sticker designs.
19. Offer FFA car air-fresheners.
20. Offer a charm bracelet with different FFA emblems in both gold and silver.
21. Offer CD-ROM disk with clip-art, creed, motto, sample banquet programs, etc.

22. Offer a picture review of FFA activities on CD-ROM.
23. Offer a simple inexpensive, bi-fold, general purpose card, without mural.
24. Offer change fundraiser calendar to a lower price, more room for advertising, remove mural, and add generic pictures of FFA members.
25. Offer a shirt for advisors' children and future FFA members.
26. Offer Successories style posters with inspirational messages.
27. Design a state star Greenhand pin.
28. Offer engraved name plates for planners, briefcases, etc.
29. Offer an expanded line of button-up shirts.
30. Decrease lot size
31. Offer small earrings (size of small charm on chain) offered in both silver and gold.
32. Offer white pants for chorus members.
33. Remove items E and F on page #29 of the *FFA Chapter Catalog*; male and female light blue tie and scarf and replace style F with a different design to make colors uniform.
34. Increase the awareness about the availability of embroidery services.
35. Offer a complement of plaque and pin styles.
36. Modernize letterhead.

Product Evaluation

- 1.* The predominant logo featured on the upper right hand corner of the 1998-99 *FFA Chapter Catalog* needs to be updated on all merchandise displaying this logo.
2. The following items be modified:
 - screen print on the back of t-shirts be made smaller;
 - pocket on the right side of jacket be sewn in a way that the degree chain elastics not interfere with the pocket function;
 - appearance of men's animal ties be more conservative;
 - officer station emblems return to a more traditional/carved appearance, i.e. Bust of Washington, Ear of Corn;
 - appearance and selection of Christmas cards be updated and increased;
 - software packages should include the screen saver;
 - emblem on the front of the official FFA jacket be made clearer/more accurate;
 - font/style of FFA merchandise be updated (i.e. place mats, shirts);
 - knife found in the 1998-99 *FFA Chapter Catalog*, page #25, item A be featured in a less prominent manner, but do not discontinue it.
3. The Ventures team offer a larger variety of these products:
 - options on how caps fit (a tighter fitting baseball cap-style);
 - options in prices of all products (i.e. jewelry and mom/dad shirts, etc.);
 - suspenders (add black, classic, button suspenders);
 - official polo;
 - windbreakers for team jackets;
 - trophy toppers (Quality of detail);
 - plaque design (conservative);
 - banquet products (i.e. Larger plastic cups and more re-useable items);

Committee Reports

- official dress shirt be long sleeve and have a smaller emblem.
- 4. The following products be improved by increasing quality of product in the following areas:
 - briefcases be made sturdier and improve the overall quality and professional appearance;
 - state degree charms have uniform size/shape links, be more durable, and of a consistent length;
 - plaques should be offered in a larger variety, including a more professional line of trophies (stained wood, etc.);
 - trophies should be offered in a variety of sturdy plaques by offering a classy, more professional line of trophies (stained wood, etc.).
- 5. Offer the opportunity to order merchandise over the Internet.
- 6. Create a product evaluation survey (Ventures Team) to be distributed at state and national conventions, WLC, and in the *FFA New Horizons* to be used in combination with an incentive program as a means of evaluation current and potential products.

Marketing Strategies

1. Provide an online catalog service (download order form).
2. Incorporate advertisements in *FFA New Horizons* through the use of inserts or reply cards.
3. Hold an annual contest to design the cover of the Venture's catalog to be judged at the national FFA convention (refer to the layout design of the 1997-98 *FFA Chapter Catalog*).
4. Improve overall quality through implementation of new photos and a wider variety of product shots.
5. Advertise openly discounts on bulk purchases.
6. Provide incentives for customers to purchase products.
7. Make products available at official FFA functions including MFE, state FFA conventions, and WLC.
8. Send the catalog biannually due to block scheduling.
9. Establish page in the Venture's catalog for computer software.
10. Include copies of the *FFA Chapter Catalog* with orders.

11. Send school administrators flyers on FFA class rings to promote them.
12. Provide Spanish version of catalog and/or order form with bilingual operators.
13. Market a banquet package at a discounted price for easier purchasing.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Nathan Clark, MI (Chair)
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Ryan Galloway, AL
Craig Bosworth, CA
Julie Cope, CA
Nikki Cooper, AR
Nick Diaz, CA
Doug Paasch, CA
Amy Wacaser, FL
Philip McKie, GA
Jake Brackett, ID
Parker Bane, IL
Elisabeth Carroll, IL
Dustin Boler, IN
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Whitney Ferris, OK
Robyn Ott, OK
Jonathan Foxworth, SC
Shane Reis, SD
Kristen Moore, TN
Marci Brzozowski, TX
Victor Guerra, TX
H. D. Laurence, TX
Jake Prince, TX
Danny Stiller, TX
Johnny Davis, VA
Jennifer Mundt, WI
Jill Schaffner, WI
Tyrell Childers, WV

* Indicates priority recommendation

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

We recommend:

1. Hold a workshop for chairs, vice-chairs and sub-committee chairs on the Monday of national FFA convention to discuss facilitation and techniques to run a committee. Have national FFA staff on hand to discuss committee meetings.
2. Ensure that a national staff person be on hand as much as possible in committee meetings. Furthermore, have a state staff person on each subcommittee.
3. Provide background materials for each committee and subcommittee. (i.e. American FFA Degree application, proficiency award application, H.O. Sargent)
4. Place delegates on committees they are familiar with.
5. Hold a meeting at State Presidents' Conference (SPC) with the Delegate Operation Coordinator.
6. Inform delegate coordinators with the actual process of conducting a committee meeting. Also, provide a delegate coordinator workshop at SPC.
7. Create a tool box that contains past committee reports and other documents to be passed down from year to year.
8. Mail all delegate orientation materials in one packet, bound together in some form.

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Amanda Smith, FL
Hannah Lovell, KY
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Jennifer Leininger, MI
Adam Pavelka, NE
Ben Grove, VA
Nathan Russell, WI



MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND PARTICIPATION

We recommend:

Agriculture Instructors

1. Create a leadership conference for agricultural instructors using the principles of BLAST Off and Made For Excellence with emphasis on SAE and opportunity workshops.
2. Develop a National Agriculture Teaching Award to promote teacher involvement (i.e. Rookie of the Year, 0-5 years, Veteran of the Year, 6+ years).
- 3.* Develop and distribute a survey concerning the problems with today's agricultural education profession.
4. Furnish a toolbox for agriculture instructors similar to those used by the state officers.
5. Encourage states to implement a teacher-mentoring program.
6. Include a page in the FFA New Horizons magazine to recognize "star" agriculture instructors.
7. Organize an expense paid International Experience Abroad for instructors as a means for promoting excellence in the classroom, chapter.

Marketing

- 1.* Revise the "Why Not" Campaign to increase membership.
2. Work with the Advisory Council to develop advertisements and public service announcements.
3. Supply state officers with materials and directions on making a State Recruitment Video – designed for each state's specific needs.
4. Supply chapter advisors and officers with recruitment materials including: Outlined workshops, pamphlets, brochures, free materials (pens, bumper stickers, etc.), and posters.
5. Redesign new and catchy posters for the "Why Not?" campaign advertisements.
6. Display the National FFA Homepage address on all advertisement materials.
7. Make all "Why Not?" materials accessible from the Internet.
8. Partner with and get sponsorship from major industries such as: Beef Council, Pork Council, Dairy Council, etc., when designing advertisements.
9. Use well-known public figures that both inner city and rural members can identify with for new advertisements.
10. Organize regional recruitment teams, for example: state staff, state officers, and regional sponsors.
11. Have national trained staff visit and teach state officers how to market the FFA through business and industry tours.
12. Display adds, billboards, etc. that will target groups such as: parents, community leaders, school faculty, and members.

Partners

- 1.* Develop a Partner Development Program Packet for chapter presidents (See 70th National Convention #227) that would include any necessary partner development materials: 1.) Letter included that shows that this program is designed to help recruit members by better informing the partners of the opportunities of the FFA; 2.) Partner development brochures; 3.) Posters for display in chapter to track progress and serve as a checklist (i.e. Administration – Take along to an official event, Counselors-Help judge CDEs); and 4.) Partner development videos.
- 2.* Complement the Partner Development Program by developing an incentive program that will be offered to chapters based on the following criteria: raising chapter membership by 10% and completing the partner development checklist.

Recruitment/Retention of Members

1. Develop short-term SAE recognition/award programs
2. Develop Career Development Events specifically for sophomores and juniors.
- 3.* Develop a national survey for current FFA members to determine their program interests.
4. Provide resources for internships for junior and seniors with FFA partners.
5. Create a national program to develop local School-to-Work programs.
6. Create an award for recruitment efforts.
7. Continue and expand already existing agriculture campaigns with focus on skills that students can obtain.
8. Suggestions for Campaign Slogans: Future for America; Food for Thought; Creating Success Through Diversity; FFA: Your Key to Success; Ignite Your Ambition.
9. Develop a national survey for non-FFA members to determine how we can get them to join the FFA.
10. Create a national non-agriculture student workshop to show the advantage of FFA.
11. Provide more recruitment resources in the state officers' toolbox.
12. Enhance the public relations aspect at NLCSO.
- 13.* Create national, non-agriculture major scholarships
14. Create a separate technology-based CDE.
15. Begin to integrate technology into all CDEs
16. Create national sample curriculum for dual credit ag-ed courses.
17. Lay a foundation for national informative newsletters to administration and faculty.

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Shaundra Schaff, MT	Kathi Brown, WI

* Indicates priority recommendation

PARTNER DEVELOPMENT

We recommend:

Awareness Development

- 1.* Create a website authored by the Partner Development Team and a "how to" packet that will be sent to chapter officers which will include an outline for newsletters, information sheets, thank-you letters, example brochures, and other forms.
2. Present workshops at state Ag Teachers Association meetings on partner development.
3. Train state officers to present partner development workshops.
4. Include information on partner development at the local level in the alumni newsletters.
5. Send information and statistics about the success of FFA to partners.

Educational Development

- 1.* Investigate the need/interest for Ag Education/FFA in non-traditional systems such as home, private, and charter schools.
2. Identify and establish partnerships with national associations concerning home school systems.
3. Place Ag Education curriculum sources on the National FFA Homepage so that home school and/or private school associations may have access.
4. Create a reference index of possible Ag Education curriculum sources for all forms of education systems.

Governmental Development

1. Implement a government official recognition banquet at national FFA convention.
2. Create a government leader to FFA leader program at the national FFA convention.
- 3.* Create a "Tool Kit" for chapters to promote government partnerships.
4. Send *FFA New Horizons* to targeted groups of elected officials.
5. Investigate Internet links from government sites to the National FFA Homepage.
6. Develop curriculum/lesson plans for Ag Educators about the government's role in agriculture and the FFA.

Support Development

1. Create a survey to identify the best practices being used to gain support of partners at state and local level.
2. Create a national recognition program for outstanding partnership development at state and/or local levels.
3. Review the partner development page of the website for accessibility, clarity, and creativity.
4. Develop specialized training in partner development for state officers taught through the Leadership Continuum.
5. Add a partner development division to the national chapter award.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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* Indicates priority recommendations



An FFA member in the Project PALS (Partners in Active Learning Support) mentoring program treats his friend to a paper-bag puppet show. PALS provides an opportunity for members to make the connection with at-risk youth in their communities.



The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff. The Proceedings was prepared and published by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.



FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The Agricultural Education Mission

The mission of Agricultural Education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resource systems.